



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS
AT INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Must I apply through Grants.gov?

Yes. All applications to this program must be submitted via Grants.gov. Instructions for submission to Grants.gov can be found in the guidelines and on the [program resource page](#).

I am looking for fellowship support for my research. May I apply to Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions?

No. Only U.S. institutions that meet the eligibility requirements may apply. However, grantee institutions under this program offer NEH-supported fellowships to individuals. A list of currently funded institutions is available on the [NEH website](#). In addition, please see the NEH website for grant opportunities in the [Division of Research Programs](#) that support research by individuals: [Fellowships](#), [Summer Stipends](#), and Awards to Faculty at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), and [Tribal Colleges and Universities](#).

A research center at my university wants to expand its fellowship program. Is it eligible to apply?

No. Applicants must be research centers or institutions that are financed, governed, and administered independently of institutions of higher education.

Our independent research institution is ready to launch a fellowship program. Is it eligible to apply?

No. NEH supports only institutions with preexisting fellowship programs. Applicants must be able to document several years of administering a successful program.

Is a research center with a fellowship program that currently offers only pre-doctoral awards eligible to apply?

Yes. However, fellowships funded by NEH's program are restricted to scholars who have completed their professional training.

Can a funded center offer NEH fellowships for periods of less than four months?

No. Fellowships must be between four and twelve months long. However, the applicant can retain some flexibility in determining fellowship tenures. For example, an institution awarded eighteen months of fellowship stipend funds could offer either three six-month fellowships, three four-month fellowships and one six-month fellowship, or two nine-month fellowships. NEH funds for all stipends are calculated at a rate of \$4,200 per month.

Our postdoctoral fellowships are designed to run for two full years. Can NEH support be extended beyond twelve months for a fellowship?

No. The maximum term for an NEH-funded fellowship is twelve months, but the institution can extend an individual fellow's tenure with funds from non-NEH sources.

Are indirect costs associated with a fellowship program covered under the funding provided by NEH?

No. Indirect costs are not allowed in this program. Institutions may use a portion of a fellow's monthly stipend to cover certain costs: for example, housing at a residential center, food, and travel to a center located abroad. These expenditures, however, should be clearly indicated in the center's announcement of the NEH-supported fellowships. The applicant institution must explain and justify such expenditures in its proposal, and total NEH funding for fellows may not exceed \$4,200 per month. NEH also offers up to \$9,000 per year to defray the costs associated with the annual selection of fellows: for example, travel, accommodation, and honoraria for selection committee members.

The grant begins in January, but the selection committee for fellowships meets in late October of the previous year. How will travel costs and honoraria be covered?

Allowable costs for the selection of fellows may be incurred up to ninety days before the beginning of the award period. Therefore, a grantee center could incur such expenses as early as October. These expenditures would be billed as pre-award costs. Pre-award expenditures are made at the recipient's risk and the recipient's authority to approve such costs does not impose an obligation on NEH in the event an award is not made or is made for an amount that is less than the recipient anticipated.

What are NEH's expectations regarding the process of selecting fellows?

The fairness of a fellowship program's selection process is of great importance to NEH, which dispenses public funds. An institution supported by this program must demonstrate that the procedures for its fellowships competition—including the selection of the committee members

who review applications for the institution—are expert and objective. Within the scope of an institution’s mission and resources every effort must be made to assemble an annually rotating, diverse, and highly qualified group of reviewers.

What is the difference between the two sample budgets mentioned in the application guidelines?

One budget includes outlays and funding for one year of the institution’s existing fellowship program, including non-NEH fellowships and costs not supported by NEH funds. The second is a three-year budget of the funds requested to support the costs of selecting the NEH-supported fellows and paying for their stipends; this budget also includes additional funding (if any) for fellows’ stipends that is drawn from non-NEH sources. The application must include both budgets.

What are the reporting requirements under this type of grant?

Over the three-year term of a grant five reports are due: an annual report on the selection of NEH fellows and, at the end of the grant, a final performance report and a final financial report.