

Open Society Fellowship: Frequently asked Questions

Is there an application deadline?

There are two application deadlines per year. Please refer to the [Fellowship Guidelines](#) page for more information.

Do I need to answer all the questions under the Project Proposal?

Yes, all questions under the Project Proposal should be answered. If you have existing book or project proposals that you have written for other funders, please rewrite them to answer our specific questions.

Is it possible to receive feedback on a project idea before formally applying?

Yes. Applicants who are uncertain whether their topic fits within the Foundations' focus areas are invited to submit a brief letter of inquiry, accompanied by a CV, before proceeding with the online application process. That letter of inquiry should be addressed to: OSFellows@opensocietyfoundations.org. All letters of inquiry must be received at least one month prior to the application deadline.

How long does it take for an application to be reviewed?

Applicants are generally notified within four months of the application deadline. Please refer to the [Fellowship Guidelines](#) page for more information.

How is the fellowship stipend determined?

Stipends are either \$80,000 or \$100,000. A fellow's stipend is based on several factors including the fellow's experience, seniority, prior earnings and the cost of living in the city where he/she is based. The stipend does not necessarily equal the applicant's current salary. Applicants' dependents are not factored into the stipend calculations.

Does the fellowship support dissertation research?

A dissertation is not an acceptable fellowship project. For scholarships and funding for degree programs, please visit the [Scholarship Programs website](#).

Can two or more people jointly apply for a fellowship?

No, the fellowship program only accepts individual applications.

What are allowable fellowship expenses?

In addition to supplying a stipend for living expenses, the fellowship may cover certain expenses, such as travel, conference fees, and part-time research assistance.

Fellowship expenses should not include operational or programmatic costs, such as employees and physical infrastructure. The purpose of the fellowship is to support individual fellows; therefore the fellowship will only cover individual expenses. Other ineligible expenses include per diems for prolonged research trips, Internet and telephone bills.

What are the guidelines for projects to "seed" new campaigns or organizations?

"Seeding" means conceptualizing, researching, planning, and laying the groundwork for a new organization or campaign. The fellowship will not provide direct operational support for the campaign or organization itself.

Does the fellowship fund documentary films?

The fellowship will not fund the production of a documentary film. However, projects involving pre-production research and development and post-production advocacy and outreach efforts conducted by a single person will be considered. The proposal must also demonstrate rigorous and original thinking about how cultural expression can advance social change.

Are photography projects eligible for support?

Yes. The program will consider photography projects that show original thinking about the nexus of art and advocacy. Applicants should also be aware that OSF has a [Documentary Photography Project](#) that supports photography.

Do all fellowship terms begin on a specific date?

No. A fellowship term can begin whenever the fellow chooses, in consultation with fellowship staff.