

GUIDELINES

Inclusive Education Scholarship Program

Open Society Scholarship Programs

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: DECEMBER 2, 2016

The **Inclusive Education Scholarship Program** offers awards to individuals from China, Czech Republic, Ukraine, and selected countries in Africa and Latin America for an 18 month Master of Education degree.

The program's objective is to provide education advocates and professionals with a foundation in the principles, values, and practices of inclusive education so that they will be equipped to lead reform of education policy and practice in their home countries.

With the knowledge and networks gained through the program, we expect that Fellows will deepen their understanding of all aspects of inclusion and play active roles in devising and implementing inclusive practices and policies.

Participating Institution

Fellows will study at Syracuse University School of Education, which demonstrates cutting-edge capacity for leadership in inclusive education, as well as legal education in disability rights.

Eligibility

The Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. Candidates with disabilities and those from marginalized communities are particularly encouraged to apply. The competition is merit-based and open* to those meeting the following criteria:

- be a citizen and legal resident of **China; Czech Republic; Ukraine; Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Argentina, or Peru** at the time of application;
- have work experience in education with a demonstrated interest in advancing inclusive education;
- have an excellent academic record with a bachelor's degree in teaching, public administration/policy, anthropology, social work, psychology, or related field—degree must be awarded by application deadline;
- have demonstrated leadership in the field of education;
- be proficient in spoken and written English and able to meet university-designated minimum scores on standardized language tests;
- be able to participate in an intensive academic writing program in Summer 2017;
- be able to begin the graduate program in August 2017;
- be able to receive and maintain visa or study permit to the United States;
- demonstrate a clear commitment to return to home country to contribute to advancing inclusive education in their national contexts.

*Employees of the Open Society Foundations and employees of local administering organizations (and their immediate family members), who are directly involved in the administration of scholarships are not eligible; nor are individuals receiving other Open Society Foundations-funded support during the fellowship period.

Fellowship Terms

The fellowship provides:

- tuition and mandatory university fees;
- monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- program-related travel;
- accident and health insurance during the program;
- funds for educational materials and professional development;
- all costs associated with pre-academic summer program and annual conference;
- support for students with disabilities to obtain reasonable accommodations necessary for participating in the program of study.

The fellowship does NOT provide funding for dependent family members.

Selection

Competition is merit based, and selection is made on the basis of academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential, and proven commitment to work to advance inclusive education in the home country. Selection proceeds as follows:

Preliminary Selection and Testing: Applications are first reviewed by representatives from the regional program administration, host university consortium, and Open Society Foundations. Applicants chosen to continue in the competition as semifinalists are required to take an official TOEFL or IELTS, the costs of which are covered by the program. Most participating universities require a minimum TOEFL of 90-100 (Internet-based exam) or IELTS of 6.5.

All applicants should research local options for TOEFL or IELTS testing to ensure results are available by February 2017. Applicants with disabilities should contact the testing agency as early as possible to make the arrangements for any necessary accommodations during testing.

Interviews and Final Selection: Semifinalists are interviewed by representatives from the Open Society Foundations, host universities, and other experts. The interview panel then recommends candidates for finalist status and subsequent university placement based on the quality of the written application, interview evaluations, and standardized test results.

University Placement: Finalists must be officially admitted to the host university program before becoming an official program grantee and being offered an award. Upon receiving the university placements, students are responsible for securing required visas for both the summer school and for the host university.

Participant Responsibilities

Pre-Academic Summer Program: Grantees are required to participate in a four-week intensive pre-program (location to be determined) before starting study at Syracuse University in August 2017. The program consists of classes in academic writing, social science, and humanities-based seminars. Immediately after the summer program, finalists attend a pre-departure orientation.

Fellowship: Fellows must uphold the academic standards of the host institution and undertake full-time study for the program's duration. Failure to maintain academic and professional standards as defined by the host university may result in dismissal from the program. Failure to follow the laws governing foreign students in the host country will result in dismissal from the program.

How to Apply

Applicants are encouraged to apply online. To apply online please go to:

<http://scholarshipprograms.submittable.com/submit/68216/2017-inclusive-education-scholarship-program> to register, and then follow instructions.

Applications in other formats may be requested by contacting one of the Regional Coordinators, whose contact details are provided below.

Further Inquiries

Please contact one of the Regional Coordinators with further questions about the program or the application process.

Deadline

Completed application forms and all necessary accompanying documents, along with a copy of your passport, must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Coordinator by **December 2, 2016**.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS for IESP

Residents of Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe:

Mr. Jehoshaphat Njau
Centre for Human Rights
Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
Pretoria, 002, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 12 420 6345
Email: jehoshaphat.njau@up.ac.za
Website: www.chr.up.ac.za

Residents of Argentina, Peru:

Coordinator: Prof. Francisco Bariffi
Centro de Investigación y Docencia en Derechos Humanos
Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata
Calle 25 de Mayo 2855. 8º piso
Mar del Plata, CP 7600, ARGENTINA
Website: redcdpd.net
Tel-Fax: +54-223-491-1376
Email: redcdpd@gmail.com

Residents of China, Czech Republic, Ukraine:

Lesha Greene
Scholarship Programs
Open Society Foundations
224 W. 57th St.
New York, NY 10019
Website: www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/programs/scholarship-programs
Tel: 212-548-0107
Email: lesha.greene@opensocietyfoundations.org