

NATIONAL
ACADEMIES

Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

2024 Reviewer Orientation Ford Foundation Fellowships

Dissertation & Postdoctoral Awards

Fellowships Office



Ford Foundation Fellowships Goal

To increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

What's New for 2024



2024 Competition

- Limited Number of [Awards](#):

STORIES

Winding down Ford fellowships at the National Academies

16 SEPTEMBER 2022



[Darren Walker](#), President, Ford Foundation

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must have previously held a Ford Foundation Fellowship
- **Levels:** Only Dissertation and Postdoctoral applications (no Predoctoral applications)
- **Submissions:** 59 applications across all levels and disciplines

2024 Competition Selection Criteria

- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Degree of promise of continuing achievement as scholars and teachers
- Capacity to respond in pedagogically productive ways to the learning needs of students from diverse backgrounds
- Sustained personal engagement with communities that are underrepresented in the academy and an ability to bring this asset to learning, teaching, and scholarship at the college and university level
- Likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship
- If applicable, how experience as a member of an underrepresented group through discrimination, inspiration, resilience, etc. may inform participation in the fellowship

2024 Review Panels

- **Scope of panels broadened to accommodate limited number of awards**
 - Panels formed around the number of applications received
 - Priority was to give all applicants as fair a review as possible
- **Reviewers may be asked to read outside of their primary expertise**
- **Panel Groups:**
 - **Education**
 - **Science**
 - Covers Biology, Ecological & Environmental, Engineering, Physical Sciences
 - **Humanities**
 - Covers History; Literature & Languages; Performance, Communication, & Art History)
 - **Interdisciplinary**
 - **Social Sciences**
 - Covers Psychology, Social Sciences, Sociology

2024 Review Panels with Application & Award Breakdown

- Final number of awards is still being finalized
- Awards will be offered in proportion to number of applications

Panel	Dissertation	Postdoctoral	Total
Education	2	10	12
Science	6	3	9
Humanities	2	9	11
Interdisciplinary	5	6	11
Social Sciences	4	12	16
Totals	19	40	59

2024 Preparation and Reviewers

- **No Calibration Exercise**
- **No New Reviewers**
- **Confirmed Reviewers and Alternate Reviewers**
 - Five reviewers per panel group
 - Confirmed reviewers will be assigned applications
 - Applications pre-screened for COI but may still arise
 - Alternate reviewers will be asked to replace a confirmed reviewer due to conflict of interest or unexpected cancellation

2024 Review Timeline

- **Checking Assigned Applications for Conflict of Interest (COI)**
 - Complete within **one week** from assignment sent date
 - Must communicate to Fellowships Office whether any COI's are identified
 - Reviewers who identify a COI must recuse themselves from the review
 - Applications will be assigned to an Alternate reviewer
- **Review Submission Deadline**
 - **February 22, 2024**
 - Please let the Fellowships Office know if you will not be able to complete your reviews by the deadline
- **Access to Deliberation Rosters Prior to Virtual Panel Meeting**
 - Late February to early March
 - Dependent on completion of all five evaluations for all applications in panel

2024 Virtual Meeting

- **Virtual Meeting:**

- All evaluations completed *prior* to meeting
- Reviewers will be able to view deliberation rosters *prior* to meeting
- Meeting will focus on discussing and determining awardees

March 14, 2024, 2:00-5:00 PM EST

- Education
- Science

March 15, 2024, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM EST

- Humanities
- Interdisciplinary
- Social Sciences

Applicant Eligibility by Level



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Dissertation &

Postdoctoral

- Demonstrate intent to pursue a career that includes teaching and research at a U.S. institution of higher education
- Provide evidence of superior academic achievement (such as grade point average, class rank, honors, or other designations)

Dissertation

- Enrolled in a research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. program at a not-for-profit U.S. institution of higher education
- Expect to complete Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in a period of **9-12 months during the 2024-2025 academic year**
- Completed all departmental and institutional requirements for their degree, except for writing and defense of the dissertation by December 12, 2023
- Uploaded a signed [Verification of Doctoral Status Form](#)

Postdoctoral

- Completed all departmental and institutional requirements for their degree, including successful defense of the dissertation, **no earlier than December 12, 2016 and no later than December 12, 2023** in a research-based field from a U.S. institution of higher education

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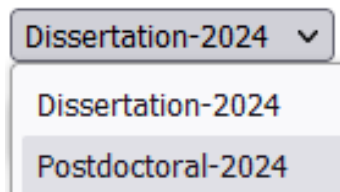
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Accessing Assignments



Accessing Application Assignments

- The Fellowships Office will send confirmed reviewers a unique link to access the rater module.
- By default, the Ford Rater Home page will list the reviewer's assigned applications at the **Dissertation** level.
 - *Reviewers must use the dropdown menu located above their list of assignments to access their **Postdoctoral** application assignments.*



Viewing the Application

- Each component of the application can be opened by selecting the hyperlinks on the applicant's rating sheet.
- The entire application, transcripts, and verification forms (if required) can also be opened using the links located at the top right of the rating form.

Application: [View Entire Application](#) 
[View Transcripts](#) ▼

- Verification forms are required for the following:
 - **Dissertation:** All dissertation applicants
 - **Postdoctoral:** Only those whose degree doesn't appear on their Ph.D. or Sc.D. transcript

Conflict of Interest (COI) & Confidentiality



Conflicts of Interest (COI)

- Reviewers should reference the *2024 Ford Reviewer Guide* for more detailed information on conflicts of interest
- In general, reviewers **should not evaluate applicants**:
 - With whom they are personally acquainted.
 - For whom they have written a letter of recommendation.
 - Who have attended or are planning to attend the reviewer's current or future institution.
 - Whose current or proposed adviser has a personal or professional relationship with the reviewer.

Reviewers should check their application assignments *at both levels as soon as possible upon receipt* to determine if a COI exists and alert the Fellowships Office so that these applications can be re-assigned.

Maintaining Confidentiality

- Reviewers **should not** retain applicant information and any application materials that were downloaded **must be deleted** after deliberations conclude.
- Only materials provided in the application should be considered.
 - Reviewers **should not** look up additional information about applicants.
- Reviewers **should not** provide information in comments that is not available in an applicant's file.

Rating, Scoring/Ranking, & Providing Constructive Feedback



Using the Rating Sliders

- Rating scale for sliders ranges from Excellent to Fair; note that default is Good.
- N/A may be used if the criterion in any category is not applicable or was not provided (e.g. employment history, honors, and awards are not required components of the application).
- Sliders indicate how the applicant rates in each section of the application.
- Assessments provide feedback to the applicant regarding the relative quality of the application *but are not tied to the numerical score assigned*.

Using the Rating Sliders

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	N/A
Academic Achievement (View: Academic Achievement ↗, Transcripts ▼)					
Education History (degrees, transcripts)			II		
Honors and Awards			II		
Employment History (if applicable)			II		
Personal Statement (View: Personal Statement ↗)					
Evidence of a capacity to respond to needs of students from diverse background			II		
Evidence of a sustained personal engagement with groups underrepresented in			II		
Evidence of likelihood of using diversity as a resource in teaching and scholarshi			II		
Scholarly Productivity (View: Scholarly Productivity ↗, Abstract of Diss. ↗)					
Statement of Previous Research			II		
Publications and Presentations			II		
Proposed Plan (View: Proposed Plan ↗, Annotated Bibliography ↗)					
Quality of plan and timeline			II		
Evidence of applicant's ability to achieve stated goals			II		
Relationship of plan to applicant's long-range career goals			II		
Quality and relevance of annotated bibliography			II		
Letters of Recommendation (Letters of Recommendation ▼)					
Strength			II		
Appropriateness of choices			II		
Overall Assessment of this Fellowship Application			II		

Assigning a Score/Ranking Applications

- A single score should be assigned to each application based on a combination of all selection factors considered.
- Applications are scored on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00.
 - **1.00 = most competitive score**
 - **5.00 = least competitive score**
- Applications should **NOT** be given the same score.
- Once all applications have been reviewed, final scores should be submitted and should reflect the reviewer's overall ranking of all the applications:
 - The best application should receive the most competitive score
 - The second-best application a lower score than the most competitive application, etc.

Entering Comments/Constructive Feedback

- **All applicants** should receive comments in addition to a score.
- Make appropriate and constructive comments.
- Refrain from comments that identify a letter writer or refer to the applicant's name, gender, and/or racial/ethnic identity.
- See **Comment Examples** linked in rater system.
- Make notations for deliberation purposes in the Remarks box for confidential comments as they can be useful to distinguish applicants during deliberation at the virtual panel meeting.

Remarks (For your reference only; available throughout deliberations, but will never be shared with applicant.): (0/2000 characters)



Deliberation Roster & Virtual Panel Meeting



Deliberation Roster

- Once all reviews have been submitted, the Fellowships Office will open the Deliberation Rosters and will notify reviewers of their availability.
- Reviewers will be able to view the ranking and scores given to each applicant in their panel.
- Reviewers will be able to prepare their justifications for which applicants should be offered awards.

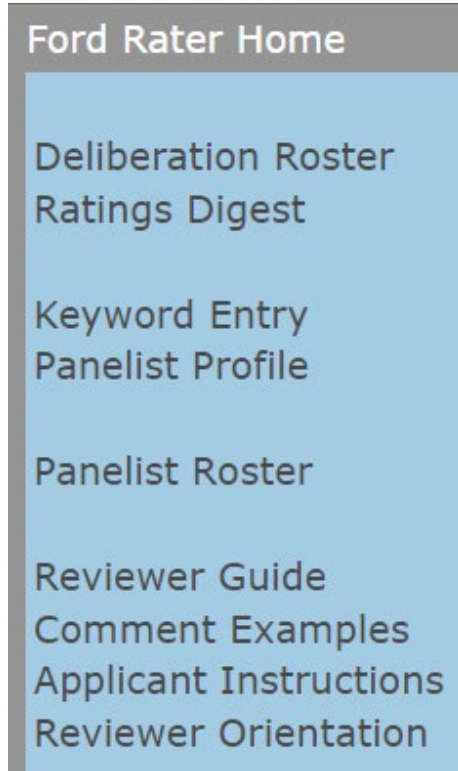
Virtual Panel Meeting

- Reviewers will discuss the applicants in their panel to determine which applicants should be offered an award.
- Reviewers will make awards at both the Dissertation and Postdoctoral levels for their panel.
- The Fellowships Office will provide guidance for the process prior to the virtual meeting.

Helpful Tools in Rater System Navigation Menu



Rater System Navigation



Access a summary of the scores, comments, and remarks you have provided for each application



Update your contact information and research expertise



Access reviewer instructions



View suggestions for constructive feedback



Read the instructions provided to applicants

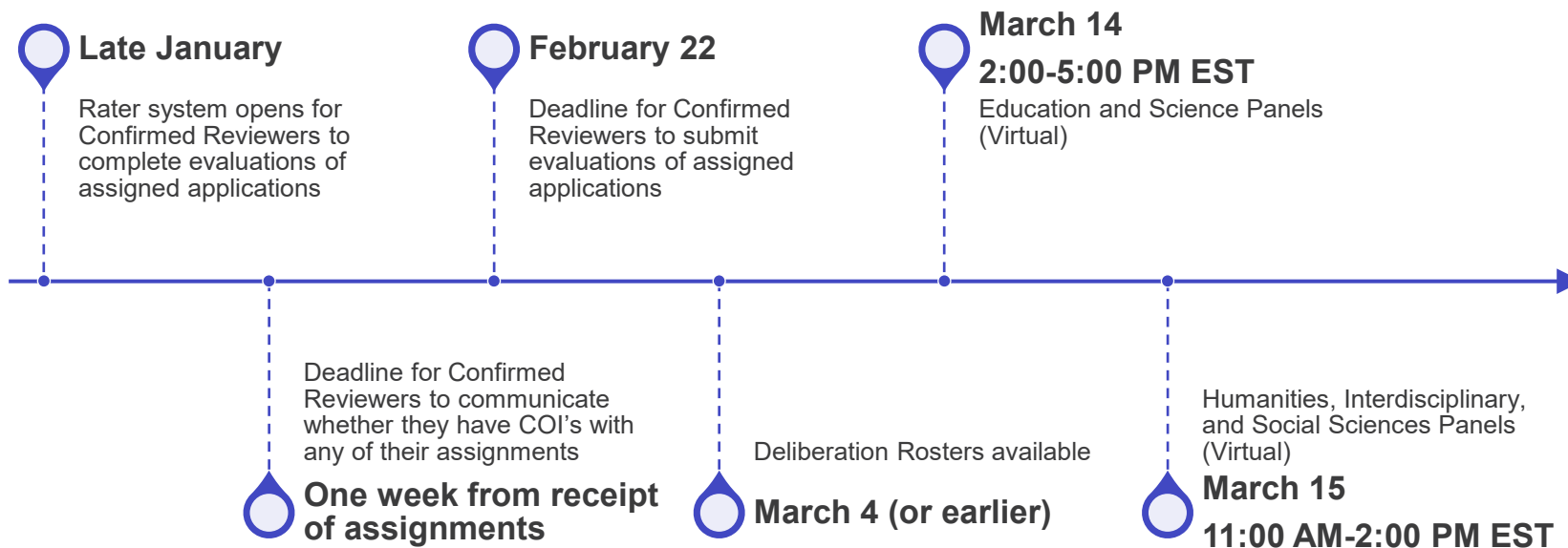


View the slides provided during the Reviewer Orientation

Important Dates



Important Dates



Fellowships Office

General information and application
file inquiries/issues:

- FellowshipsOffice@nas.edu