

Frequently Asked Questions – Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships

Through its fellowships administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Ford Foundation funded Predoctoral awards between 1986-2023. The following Frequently Asked Questions apply to Predoctoral Ford Fellows awarded through 2023.

I have been awarded another fellowship. Can I use both concurrently?

No, you cannot hold another major internal or external fellowship award concurrently with the Ford fellowship; however, supplementary funding is permissible to bring your support in line with other university fellowship and assistantship stipends. You may use other fellowship funding during Ford fellowship deferral years. The predoctoral fellowship allows up to two deferral years. For questions regarding supplementary funding, contact FordAwards@nas.edu.

I plan to accept another fellowship award that provides stipend support. May I accept the Ford Foundation Fellowship in title only?

No, the Ford Foundation Fellowship award cannot be accepted in title only; the award funding must be accepted along with the other benefits of the fellowship.

May I defer Ford support midway through a tenure year?

Ford support cannot be deferred during a tenure year. A Fellow's yearly stipend would be pro-rated for only the months on tenure and remaining months of support would be forfeited.

What if I graduate prior to the end of my fellowship?

When a Fellow graduates, the fellowship award ends and no further stipend payments will be made.

What if I decide to attend a different university from the one I indicated in my application?

You must inform the Fellowships Office in writing about the institution you will be attending. Your revised institution must meet program requirements.

Why does my payment method say "Institution" in the Ford Fellows web module?

Predoectoral Fellows are paid in two ways: (1) **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**, with monthly direct deposit payments managed by the Fellowships Office and paid directly to the Fellow, or (2) **Institution pay**, where the Fellowships Office remits the entire stipend to the Fellow's institution to disburse to the Fellow.

If "Institution" is listed in your payment method dropdown menu, this indicates that officials from your institution have determined that it would be more beneficial for Ford Fellows to receive stipend payments through the institution.

When will my fellowship tenure and stipend disbursement begin and when will they end?

Renewing predoctoral Fellows have three options for their tenure period and stipend disbursement:

1. June 1 to May 31 (12 months)
2. September 1 to August 31 (12 months)
3. September 1 to May 31 (9 months)

Fellows requesting stipend disbursement during the summer months should be, or plan to be, enrolled in graduate school during those months. You will receive the same total yearly stipend in all cases. You must be enrolled during your fellowship tenure.

How do I change my stipend disbursement period after I have already selected 9 months or 12 months?

Fellows who are paid via the **EFT** payment method and wish to change their stipend disbursement period should contact FordAwards@nas.edu to determine if and when changes to the payment schedule can be made.

Fellows who are paid via the **Institution** payment method should contact their [Coordinating Official](#) to determine if and when changes to the payment schedule can be made.

When will I receive my stipend payments?

If you receive direct deposit payments, your bank account will be credited on approximately the first business day of the month beginning the month of your selected start date.

If you are paid by your institution, you should contact your [Coordinating Official](#) to confirm when your first stipend payment will be made.

My bank account information has changed. How can I update my account numbers?

Please send an email to FordAwards@nas.edu indicating you need to update your bank account information. Fellowships Office staff need to initiate a system change and will then send you an email notification when the system is ready for you to enter the updated EFT account information. Once notified, Fellows must submit revised EFT account information in the Ford Fellows web module under the Tenure Support and Stipend section.

To ensure that your EFT account update is completed in a timely manner, you must submit your updated EFT information in the Ford Fellows web module by the 15th of the month prior to your next stipend payment (e.g., by October 15 for a November 1 payment).

Does the fellowship cover health insurance, other fringe benefits, or provide a travel allowance?

No. Some academic institutions will provide health insurance to Ford Fellows. We suggest that you contact your adviser or another individual in your department to negotiate these matters. The Fellowships Office encourages institutions to provide Fellows fringe benefits without charge.

Does the fellowship cover indirect costs at my institution?

No. All payments administered by the Ford Foundation Fellowship program are for the benefit of the Fellows.

How do I obtain an award letter needed by my department to set up my fellowship at my institution?

Contact the Fellowships Office at FordAwards@nas.edu to request an award letter. These letters are made available to new Fellows upon request. In addition, if you require fellowship verification at any time while you are on Ford tenure, please do not hesitate to send a request to the Fellowships Office.

What information can I provide my institution to inform officials about the Ford Foundation Fellowships?

The Fellowship Office's web site features [an information page for Educational Institutions](#). You may provide this link to officials at your institution, and they may also contact the Fellowships Office directly at FordAwards@nas.edu.

May I accept a research or teaching assistantship during a tenure year?

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide support that will allow the Fellow to devote their full time to graduate study. Fellows are permitted to accept part-time/half-time teaching or research assistantships if 1) it is required by the program, 2) it is necessary to secure stipend supplementation, benefits, or tuition waivers, or 3) if it is beneficial to the Fellow's career development. The overall level of compensation from all sources should not exceed the amount of a standard assistantship salary at the department or institution. Participation in full-time paid or unpaid internships or other full-time paid activities, even if required for degree completion, cannot be undertaken during a fellowship year of tenure.

May I ask for emergency funds if I need additional funding?

Additional or emergency funding is not available.

What about taxation?

For any questions about taxation, Fellows should consult a tax professional or the Internal Revenue Service to determine their individual tax liability.

My university sent me a tuition bill. Does the fellowship cover my tuition?

The Fellowships Office asks universities to waive all tuition and mandatory, non-refundable fees during academic periods when a Ford Fellow is on tenure. In the event that health insurance fees are mandatory, it is expected that the institution will also cover those fees for you. If you receive a tuition bill, contact your adviser or an individual in your department who may be able to resolve the issue. The Fellowships Office is also available to provide support. Please contact us at FordAwards@nas.edu if you require assistance.

When must I submit my mid-year/end-of-year/final reports?

Email notifications will be sent to Fellows for each required report. Specific due dates will be listed in the Ford Fellows web module. If you do not receive a notification email, please contact FordAwards@nas.edu.

Type of Report	Notification Email Sent
Mid-Year	January
End-of-Year	April/May
Final	July

What is required to renew my predoctoral fellowship?

You will receive an email from the Fellowships Office with a link to the Ford Fellows web module in May. In the Ford Fellows web module, you must complete the following steps:

- Review and update your **contact information**
- Enter your **decision** to renew
- Enter your **stipend** information (payment method, choice of tenure period, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information for direct deposit)
- Upload an **Official Transcript** from the most recent semester or quarter
- Upload a [Renewal Verification Form \(RVF\)](#) signed by your faculty adviser. RVFs serve as confirmation from your adviser that you are making satisfactory progress and are in good standing in your program of study
- Submit an **End of Year Report** for the prior year, if on tenure

Contact

When should I contact the Fellowships Office?

The Fellowships Office has a vested interest in your success in academia and would like to serve as your advocate. If you have questions about the administration of the fellowship or wish to discuss issues that arise that impact your academic progress in graduate school, please contact us.

How can I contact the Fellowships Office?

Fellowships Office
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW, Keck 576
Washington, DC 20001
Email: FordAwards@nas.edu
Phone: 202-334-2860

More information is provided on the Fellowships Office Webpage at <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/ford-foundation-fellowships>

[List of Regional Liaisons](#) — Senior mentors who are Fellowship alumni and willing to provide guidance
[Ford Fellows Directory](#) — Database of current Fellows and alumni