



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

SUMMER STIPENDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. Eligibility

1. I am an independent scholar. What are my chances of receiving a Summer Stipend?

Your chances are the same as any other applicant's. All applicants must propose a significant project and must also present evidence of their qualifications, including publications, presentations, and other relevant experiences.

2. I am a graduate student. Am I eligible to apply for a Summer Stipend?

No. If you have successfully defended your dissertation, however, and are waiting for your degree to be conferred, you are eligible to apply. Applicants who have satisfied all the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral may apply, but such applicants need a letter from the dean of the conferring school, attesting to the applicant's status as of September 27, 2012. This letter must be received by the Summer Stipends program by October 17, 2012. The letter may be faxed to the program at 202-606-8204; alternatively, a PDF version of the signed letter may be included as an attachment to an e-mail message sent to stipends@neh.gov.

3. Does NEH support projects whose results will be written in a language other than English?

Yes. Applicants with projects that will be written in a language other than English must explain how access and dissemination will be affected.

4. May I apply to translate a work into English if other English translations already exist?

Yes. In the proposal narrative, provide a rationale for a new translation.

5. I am involved in a collaborative project. Can collaborators split a Summer Stipend?

No. Each collaborator must submit a separate application, and panelists will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merit. Applicants may wish to apply for a [Collaborative Research Grant](#).

6. I plan to complete a draft of my book prior to the start of the award. May I use the award period to respond to the publisher's readers' reports?

Using a Summer Stipend to revise work is fully acceptable under program guidelines. However, work plans must not depend entirely upon factors outside an applicant's control. For instance, Summer Stipends should not be used to respond to pending or anticipated readers' reports.

II. Other Fellowship Opportunities

Does NEH offer additional funding opportunities for individual scholars in the humanities? Does NEH collaborate with other institutions to provide additional funding for individual scholars in the humanities?

NEH Fellowships support individual scholars for periods of six to twelve months. NEH Awards for Faculty support individual scholars for periods of two to twelve months. Fellowships are open to scholars who have completed their formal education, regardless of their institutional affiliation. Awards for Faculty are open only to faculty members at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or Tribal Colleges and Universities. Applicants apply directly to NEH.

NEH also collaborates with several organizations to offer support for research:

Library of Congress (LOC) – John W. Kluge Center Fellowships

Projects that draw on the collections of the Library of Congress are eligible for support. Interested applicants should apply directly to [LOC's Kluge Center Fellowships Program](#).

Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) – [Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#)

Subjects may include modern Japanese political economy, international relations and society, and United States-Japan relations. Applicants may consult the [JUSFC website](#) for additional information.

NEH Grants for Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

Projects to be undertaken at independent centers for advanced study, libraries, and museums in the United States, and research centers overseas, are eligible for support. Individual scholars must apply directly to the institutions themselves. A list of currently funded institutions is available [here](#).

[NEH and National Science Foundation Fellowships Program for Documenting Endangered Languages \(DEL\)](#)

Projects on endangered languages are eligible for support. A full description of the DEL program is located [here](#).

III. Application and References

1. What help is available for preparing the proposal?

Because of the large number of applications, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft proposals. NEH staff will, however, answer questions about preparing your proposal and about your eligibility. Staff members may be reached at (202) 606-8200 and at stipends@neh.gov.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, as well as the broader list of projects. You can find links to the sample narratives, and to the list of funded projects, on the [program resource page](#).

2. I applied for a grant last year and my proposal was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to reapply and does not inform panelists that a proposal was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different panelists each year.

3. My project is interdisciplinary. What is the most effective way of characterizing it for the review process?

NEH supports proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries (as well as proposals that are rooted in a single discipline). If your project is interdisciplinary, when selecting the project field you should choose the field that best captures the central focus of the proposal. In selecting referees, you should choose two who can effectively attest to your ability to work in the disciplines that are relevant to your project.

4. My referee is unable to submit a letter online. Is there an alternative?

NEH strongly encourages referees to submit their letters online. If this is not possible, referees may e-mail letters to stipends@neh.gov or fax them to 202-606-8204.

IV. Using Grants.gov

1. How do I know if I have submitted my application successfully?

After you submit your application, you should receive four e-mail messages confirming receipt of your application. To ensure that your application is properly processed, please verify that you have received all four confirmations. The first three are from Grants.gov:

1. “Grants.gov Submission Receipt”;
2. “Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt”; and
3. “Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt.”

These messages are normally sent within twenty-four hours of the submission, but minor delays could occur in the event of heavy system usage.

If you do not receive these messages, or if the messages indicate that the application has been rejected, contact Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) at 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726) or support@grants.gov. Include the Grants.gov tracking number in correspondence regarding the application.

4. NEH confirmation receipt

The fourth e-mail message is from NEH and assigns your application an NEH tracking number, which is different from your Grants.gov tracking number. You will receive this e-mail message within ten business days *after* the application deadline.

2. Can I check to see whether my letter writers have submitted their letters?

Yes. After you have received your NEH confirmation receipt, you may check the status of your letters of reference by logging in to [the secure area of NEH’s website](#). Enter your NEH tracking number (or application number) and your Grants.gov tracking number. You will be able to see the names and e-mail addresses of your letter writers and whether your letters of reference have arrived. (You will also be sent e-mail notification when each letter arrives.) If necessary, you may also send reminders to your letter writers from this site.

3. What is the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance - Individual Form, and where do I find it?

The Application for Federal Domestic Assistance- Individual Form is a standard government application form. It is included in the “Mandatory Documents” field of the application package that you download from Grants.gov. To begin filling out the form, highlight the name of the form and move it to the “Mandatory Documents for Submission” field by using the arrow button on the form and then the “Open Form” button located beneath the “Mandatory Documents for Submission” field. (In Section IV of the guidelines, “Application and Submission Information,” see “How to Submit Your Application,” specifically the discussion of Form I under STEP 4.)