GUIDELINES

Civil Society Scholar Awards 2018-2019

Open Society Scholarship Programs

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MARCH 31, 2018

The Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) support **international academic mobility** to enable doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially-engaged research and critical scholarship in their home country or region.

At the Open Society Foundations we believe in taking on controversial issues and supporting bold, innovative solutions that address root causes and advance systemic change. We also believe in encouraging critical debate and respecting diverse opinions. Universities play a key role in advancing these aims and are a vital part of civil society.

Civil Society Scholars are selected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to research or other engagement with local communities, to furthering debates on challenging societal questions, and to strengthening critical scholarship and academic networks within their fields.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Awards are open to the following academic populations:

- **PhD students** of eligible fields studying at universities inside or outside of their home country; or

- **Full-time faculty members (minimum of a Master's degree) teaching at universities in their home country;**

Who are citizens of: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kosovo, Laos, Libya, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Applicants with permanent resident status or dual citizenship in Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Nordic countries, or USA are not eligible to apply.

PhD students, including those teaching at their home or other universities, must apply as doctoral students. Applicants applying as full-time faculty members must have a minimum of a Master's degree, be teaching at their home institutions, and cannot be enrolled in a doctoral program. Students or faculty currently enrolled in Master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply.

Current or former grantees who have been awarded a CSSA grant once may apply for a new grant but must delineate how their proposed project is a continuation of / is closely related to their original project. Current grantees applying for the award for the second time must also confirm that they are on schedule with their current grant's work timeline. **CSSA grant cannot be awarded to the same person more than twice.**

The program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, pregnancy and maternity or marriage and/or civil partnership.

For more eligibility criteria, please consult the **Frequently Asked Questions** document, available here.

ELIGIBLE SUBJECT AREAS:

Any subject areas within the social sciences and humanities are eligible, but particularly those related to:

law, justice, and governance; sustainable development and natural resource management; economic rights and empowerment of the poor; public health, social work and community development; new media law and policy; inclusive education; post-conflict studies; and human rights.

Ineligible fields include: *business administration, management training, computer science, finance/banking, marketing, engineering, hard sciences (physics, biology, chemistry, etc.), mathematics, medical sciences or teaching English as a foreign language/language instruction.*

SUPPORTED GRANT ACTIVITIES:

The Awards support short-term, international academic projects**,** such as: fieldwork (data collection); research visits to libraries, archives or universities; course/curriculum development; and international research collaborations leading to a peer-reviewed publication. We can only accept one application with one research project per person each year. **Please note that we no longer consider requests for tuition fees support.**

- **Project Duration:** Between 2 - 12 months.

- **Project Location:** all projects must take place outside of the country of the applicant's current residence.

  For legal reasons, we are currently unable to fund projects taking place in **Russia** or **Azerbaijan**. Proposals that have Russia or Azerbaijan indicated as one of the selected international research locations will be rejected as ineligible.

  Proposals that have **the United States** indicated as one of the international research locations must meet the following criteria:
  - Start date of February 1, 2019 or later;
  - Minimum project length of 3 months;
  - An official invitation from the host institution must be attached to the application at the time of submission, along with a confirmation that the host institution is on the list of Designated Sponsor Organizations for J1 visa.
  - J1 visa will need to be obtained by all finalists travelling to the United States for their CSSA-funded research projects. B1/B2 visas cannot be used for this purpose.

- **Eligible Dates:** September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019.
  If the proposed research project does not start and end within this period it is ineligible. Projects taking place in the United States can only be funded if they start on or after February 1, 2019.

- **Maximum Funding Requests:** $15,000.

Applicants may NOT request grant assistance for the support of:

- federal and/or state taxes;
- computer hardware, software or other computer-related equipment;
- automobile-related expenses (except fuel costs during fieldwork);
- tuition/academic fees;
- conference attendance which is not part of a larger research project;
- applications from more than one individual;
- honorarium payments to the applicant; or
- honoraria or other payments made to third parties, such as hired researchers. In exceptional cases a small percentage of the award, not exceeding 15%, may be considered for this purpose.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to enquire with host institutions to investigate the minimum levels of funding required for visa issuance before applying to the program.

Competition for CSSA awards is merit-based. Selection will be made on the basis of proven academic excellence, a clear and justifiable need for international travel to complete the research project and relevance of the project to the development of open society in the applicant's home country.

Selected grantees may be invited to attend a participant conference during the grant period. Travel costs and accommodation for this event will be covered by CSSA.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are required from all applicants. Please note that requirements for faculty applicants and doctoral student applicants differ.

All Applicants:

1.   Completed Application Form (online or hard copy);

2.   Up to date CV;

3.   A detailed budget and timeline of your research project or first year of doctoral studies curricula, with a clear explanation of when and how you will use the requested funds (please use the template provided);

4.   Copy of the identification pages of your passport(s) and any current visas;

5.   Scan of current official graduate school transcript (doctoral applicants) or the final transcript of highest degree obtained (for faculty applicants and PhD student applicants in their first year of study); and

6.   A **letter of invitation** from a faculty member or a senior administrator at the institution where your research will take place, if applicable (*scanned and attached to application*).

Doctoral student applicants must also provide:

1.   **An official letter from your academic institution** confirming your enrollment status, department, and expected completion date (*scanned and attached to application*);

2.   **A personal reference letter from an academic or professional in your field in your home country** who can speak to your accomplishments, future aspirations, and ties to your home country (*scanned and attached to application*);

3.   **An academic reference letter** from your academic supervisor supporting the research for which you seek funding. Supervisors should also confirm if the activity will need IRB/ethics committee approval prior to the activity taking place (*scanned and attached to application*).

Faculty applicants must also provide:

1.   An **official letter from your institution of employment** confirming your status as a faculty member and endorsing the proposed time away from your position (*scanned and attached to application*);

2.   **An academic reference letter** from a senior colleague in your field with direct knowledge of your work and your proposed research topic (*scanned and attached to application*).

<u>NOTE:</u> Omission of one or more of the documents renders your application incomplete and will result in disqualification. Please refer to the <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> for more information.

All reference letters MUST include full name, email address and contact number of the person giving the reference.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants must complete and submit a CSSA application. **Online applications are strongly encouraged.**

▪   **ONLINE APPLICATION**
All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. To apply online please go to click on this <u>link</u> to register, and then follow instructions.

▪   **PAPER APPLICATION**
Printable version of the application form may be accessed via this <u>link</u> or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see below).

Please submit only one application either online OR on paper by **March 31, 2018.**

Paper applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by **March 31, 2018** and sent to either the New York or London address listed below, OR submitted to one of the local partner offices listed below.
Late applications will automatically be disqualified.

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR APPLICATION VIA EMAIL BY THE END OF JUNE 2017.

Open Society Foundations
Open Society Scholarship Programs

224 West 57th Street
New York, NY
10019, USA
Email: cssa@infoscholar.org

Open Society Foundation - London
Open Society Scholarship Programs
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<div align="center">LOCAL PARTNER OFFICES</div>

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Burma/Myanmar:
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Kamayut Townhip
Yangon, Myanmar
T: (95) 1502 884 ext. 206 (Scholarships office)
Contact: sssmyanmar@gmail.com

Educational Advising Center
str. Puskin, 16, Chisinau, MD 2012
Tel/Fax: (373 22)221167, (373 22)221172
Email: eac@eac.md
Contact: Angela Muset
E-mail: amuset@eac.md

Mongolia
Educational Advising Center
Sukhbaatar District, Khoroo 8, Khoroolol 11,
Students Street, MKM Building 24, 1st Floor
Ulaanbaatar 210648, Mongolia
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Fax: (976 11) 32 69 41
Contact: Sayamaa Dangaasuren
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Nepal
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Tajikistan
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The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve this mission, the Foundations seek to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, the Open Society Foundations implement a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, we build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. The Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros established the Open Society Foundations, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. Our activities have grown to encompass the United States and more than 70 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Each Foundation relies on the expertise of boards composed of eminent citizens who determine individual agendas based on local priorities.

The Open Society Scholarship Programs support individuals passionate about improving their knowledge and their ability to advance positive social change in their home countries.

University-based education will empower these individuals to explore and develop intelligent and humane ideas generated by free and open inquiry, critical analysis, and a nuanced understanding of the complex challenges facing open societies.

Through professional degree and international research awards, we help individuals in constrained environments access academic resources more readily available in open societies. We prioritize grants to individuals in countries particularly challenged by repressive governance and constant threats to human rights.

Using transparent, open and merit-based competitions, we offer awards for advanced study in the social sciences and humanities. Awards include enhancements such as preparatory summer programs, regional conferences, and internship opportunities, all designed to strengthen the networks and communities of the open society leaders we seek to build.

The Scholarship Programs collaborate with universities, private donors, and government agencies around the world, as well as with other Open Society programs and affiliated organizations.