

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility

Before working on the application, it is a good idea to make sure you are eligible and can document your eligibility. You are eligible:

1. If you are a "Green Card" holder, please provide a copy of your card, OR
2. If you are a naturalized citizen, please provide the eight-digit number on your Citizenship Certificate and the date of naturalization; a photocopy of the name page of your United States passport can substitute as evidence of citizenship, OR
3. If you have two parents who are naturalized citizens as of the date of your application, please provide the eight-digit numbers on their Citizenship Certificates and the dates of their naturalization; a photocopy of the name page of their United States passport can substitute as evidence of citizenship.

Note: These will be independently verified with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

If you do not meet the eligibility requirements under 1), 2), or 3) above, you are not eligible for consideration in the current competition of the Fellowship Program. Perhaps you will be next year.

You may not be older than 30 as of **November 1, 2008**.

You must be a senior in college or a holder of a bachelor's degree or at present enrolled in a graduate program. **Individuals who are in the third, or subsequent, year of study in the same graduate program are not, however, eligible for this competition.** Students who have received a master's degree in a program and are continuing for a doctoral degree in the same program are considered to have been in the same program from the time they began their work on their master's degree. Applicants in dual degree programs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Successful Applicants

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans program is extremely competitive, with an annual average of 900 applications for thirty awards. Eighty-four individuals are called for interviews. We urge you, before you begin working on an application, to read the selection criteria in #1g below very carefully, to read the biographical sketches of the recent winners on our website (www.pdsoros.org), and to consider seriously whether you are likely to be competitive for this award. At the same time, do not forego applying for the wrong reasons. Current Fellows have not necessarily had outstanding academic records, have not necessarily attended prestigious undergraduate institutions, and are not necessarily pursuing careers in high status occupations. Rather, they have, given their ages and backgrounds, shown extraordinary creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the principles of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Fellowship may under no circumstance be deferred. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply if they still meet the requirements of the Fellowship.

Components of a Completed Application: Please be sure you have completed all **eight** parts. Make sure that your name appears, in exactly the same form, on all parts of the application, and especially on those parts that are being completed by other individuals. If your transcripts, graduate record examination results, or other documents will refer to you by a different name, please put that name in parentheses on your application form. Do not forget to sign and date the application.

- 1) **Formal Application:** Legibly and clearly answer all the questions. Put N/A if the question does not apply to you (e.g., you do not have an E-mail address). There are several areas of possible confusion.
 - a) Place(s) of family origins – list one or more countries or foreign areas that were homes to you or your parents. You may add an ethnic, linguistic, or cultural tradition that is important to you even though it is not specifically linked to a place or country (e.g., Hmong in Laos).
 - b) Date of arrival for family/self to the US – please indicate the year of arrival (e.g., 1978 or 1996, etc.).
 - c) "First Language" means the language you used most growing up as a young child.

- d) List the names, address, telephone and email of your parents. If you are eligible because both of your parents are naturalized citizens, list their names even if you do not currently live with both of them. If they are deceased, indicate so.
- e) History of higher education: institution of higher education means any junior college, college, or university. You should list all institutions attended and degrees awarded at the undergraduate and graduate level. Please submit transcripts for degree-granting institutions; you may include a photocopy of the transcript. If you are currently enrolled in a graduate program and intend to use the Soros fellowship for support, please indicate. If you are currently enrolled in a graduate program and are seeking a Fellowship for support in another graduate program, please list the place(s) to which you are applying and indicate that you are in a transitional graduate experience.
- f) If you are applying to more graduate programs than there is space on the application, you may add a sheet.
- g) There are three criteria for selection. You should discuss them in the application under selection criteria and in essay number 1. You may include the achievement deemed relevant in the application by the use of bullets or by full sentences. You may want to use the space in the application under selection criteria for achievements not included in the essay. In addition to demonstrated capacity to undertake advanced academic work, a successful candidate will fulfill at least two of the following:
 - i. creativity, originality, and initiative, demonstrated in any area of her/his life;
 - ii. accomplishment, activity that requires drive and sustained effort; and
 - iii. commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which includes activity in support of human rights and the rule of law, in opposition to unwarranted encroachment on personal liberty, and in advancing the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.

You should indicate what evidence you are including in your application to attest to your possession of any or all of these attributes. (See 3 below)

- 2) **Essays:** please be sure to answer the specific questions. It is important that this be your own writing. Those involved in the selection process want to know about you. The word limitation of 1,000 words for each essay is firm. Essays should be typed and double-line spaced.
 A Lexiconic Footnote: Several words used by candidates in their essays are often misspelled or misused. Doing so makes readers and panelists feel the candidate is not well educated. Here are the chief offenders:
 - A family immigrates **to** (e.g., the US) or emigrates **from** (e.g., Poland)
 - If you speak highly of something or someone, you **compliment** it; if you contribute something to make it more complete, you **complement** it.
 - If someone has responsibility for a research grant, the individual is referred to as the **Principal** Investigator, not the **Principle** Investigator.
 - If you take advice on an issue, you receive **counsel**, not **council**.
 - If you **affect** something, you act upon it. If you **effect** something, you bring it into existence.
- 3) **Exhibits:** You must submit a 1-2 page resume. In addition, you may attach no more than five additional pages that document or illustrate your strengths in one or more of the selection criteria. Appropriate exhibits might include copies of newspaper or magazine articles, excerpts from a portfolio, letters of commendation, programs for events you have organized or in which you have participated. For authored publications the titled and author page will be sufficient. Do not send a complete thesis or long articles. These exhibits will not be returned. Students applying in the Fine and Performing Arts, or other fields where pertinent, may submit one CD, one DVD, one video cassette, or no more than twelve slides. Please clearly mark all exhibits with your name. Exhibits will not be returned.
- 4) **Recommendation Letters:** Three letters are required. One of the letters must come from a faculty member of a college or university who is familiar with you as an undergraduate or graduate student. A second letter should come from someone who is either familiar with you in some kind of work or activity, whether a job, a volunteer assignment, or a project you have undertaken or from anyone you think might best tell us about your strengths in creativity, originality, initiative, capacity for accomplishment, and commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. A third letter may come from either category. You should not ask a member of your immediate or extended family to write on your behalf. Letters used for other purposes (e.g., admission into

medical school, job searches or for other national fellowships) should not be sent. Letters should be sent directly by the writers to The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans office.

- 5) **Institutional Status Form:** An institutional status form must be submitted from the institution at present attended indicating when and whether the present degree program will be completed (this may be completed by a registrar, a dean or director of the program, or other authority). If you have a bachelor's degree and have not yet enrolled in a graduate program, you need not submit this form. A completed institutional status form should be sent directly to The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans office. Put your name in the space provided.
- 6) **Transcripts:** All applicants must submit a transcript from their undergraduate degree-granting institutions. Applicants who have already begun their graduate study must also submit a transcript from the institution where they are pursuing a graduate degree. If a graduate degree has already been completed and the candidate is embarking on a second degree, the transcript of the first graduate degree should be submitted. You may submit a photocopy of the transcript.
- 7) **Documentation of "New American" Status:** The appropriate documentation will depend on whether you qualify as a green card holder, as a naturalized citizen of the US, or as the child of two naturalized citizens. For further information on documentation please refer to the section on eligibility. A photocopy of a green card or of a US passport for a naturalized citizen, plus the number and date of naturalization, or the number and date of naturalization of parents must be included.
- 8) **Report of Required Aptitude Test Results:** If one or more of the graduate degree programs you are applying to require(s) that you take a test, such as the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, or LSAT, you must submit the results of that test no later than the second week of **December 2008**. If you are applying to graduate programs in two fields, you may need to submit the results of two different tests. If you have not received the results of the test as of the date of the application deadline, please indicate when you expect to receive your results. You may submit a photocopy of the score report.
- 9) **Notification of Receipt of Application:** Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application.

THE NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:

NOVEMBER 1, 2008

Your application forms, essays, resume, transcripts, and documentary evidence of eligibility as a "New American" must be submitted via the on-line application system or postmarked no later than

NOVEMBER 1, 2008. The institutional status form, recommendation letters, and reports of graduate aptitude tests will be accepted after that date, but screening will be conducted during November and early December, so delay in the receipt of any of these items may adversely affect your chances of being considered as a Finalist and invited for an interview.

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