

GUIDELINES

Civil Society Scholar Awards 2016 -2017

Open Society Scholarship Programs

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 15, 2016

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.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Awards are open to the following academic populations:

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

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.

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.

For more eligibility criteria, please consult the **Frequently Asked Questions** document, available here: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20151125>

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.

The program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

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

Students or faculty currently enrolled in Master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply.

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.

Requests for support for **first-year tuition fees** will only be considered on the basis of a clearly demonstrated need from **new** doctoral students who have gained admission to universities outside of their home country and will use the award towards their **first year of academic study**. *Funding for tuition for students beyond their first year of studies will not be considered.*

- **Project Duration:** *Between 2 - 9 months.*
- **Eligible Dates:** *August 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017.* If the proposed research project does not start and end within this period it is ineligible.
- **Maximum Funding Requests:** Doctoral Students: \$10,000; Faculty Members: \$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;
- tuition/academic fees if the applicant is not in the *first year* of a doctoral program;
- conference attendance which is not part of a larger research project;
- applications from more than one individual;
- honoraria or 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.)

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.*

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.

THIS FORM IS FREE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

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 short-term trainings/summer school and a participant conference during the grant period. Travel costs and accommodation for these events 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. Updated 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);
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*).

For first-year doctoral students who have not started their programs, an academic reference letter from your previous professor/supervisor will suffice.

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*).

NOTE: *Omission of one or more of the documents renders your application incomplete and will result in disqualification. In the event that a document(s) will become available only after you submit your application, please indicate this on your application and send the missing document(s) as soon as possible.*

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 link](#) to register, and then follow instructions.

▪ **PAPER APPLICATION**

Paper applications may be accessed via <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20151125> or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see below).

Please submit only one application either online OR on paper by **February 15, 2016**.

Paper applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by **February 15, 2016** and sent to either the New York or London address listed below, OR submitted to a local Educational Advising Center listed below.

Late applications will automatically be disqualified.

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
Millbank Tower, 7th Floor
21-24 Millbank, London
SW1P 4QP, UK
Email: cssa@infoscholar.org

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTERS

Afghanistan

Afghanistan OSIA
Shahre Naw, Butcher Street, First Left Lane, House
No 53 Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 778 816 380
Contact:
Mr Mustafa Daimerkisha:
mustafa.daimerkisha@opensocietyfoundations.org

Azerbaijan

[Baku Education Information Center](#)
40 J. Jabbarli Street, Caspian Business Center
Baku AZ1065
Tel/Fax: (994 12) 4482845/46
Contact:
Bahar Haji-zada: bhaji-zada@beic.az

Albania

[Open Society Foundation for Albania](#)
Rr. "Qemal Stafa", Pall.120/2,
Tirana, Albania
Tel. +355 4 2234621; 2234223
Fax +355 4 2235855
Contact:
Brunilda Bakshevani: ibakshevani@osfa.soros.al

Belarus

(Postal address)
Educational Advising Center
European Humanities University
Tauro g. 12, LT-10101 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: 00370 5 274 0622
Contact: Kevin Reiling: advising@ehu.lt

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[SRCe](#)

- Student Resource Center

Univerzitetski kampus
Zmaja od Bosne BB
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. (387 33) 206 048
Fax (387 33) 212 032
Contact:
Muhamed Serdarevic: muhamed@srce.ba

Burma/Myanmar:

Thabyay Education Foundation
605A San Yeik Nyein 6th Street
Kamayut Township
Yangon, Myanmar
T: (95) 1502 884 ext. 206 (Scholarships office)
Contact: sssmyanmar@gmail.com

Haiti

FOKAL

143, Avenue Christophe
B.P. 2720, Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Contact: David Bruchon
Email: dbruchon@fokal.org

Kosovo

[Kosovar Civil Society Foundation](#)

Fazli Grajqevci str.4/a 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo
Phone: ++ 381 38 248 636; ++381 38 248 643
Contact: Nart Orana
Email: nart.orana@kcsfoundation.org

Macedonia

Youth Educational Forum
Drenak 34 A, 1000 Skopje
Macedonia
Tel: +389 2 3139 692
Fax: +389 2 311 44 12
Contact: Bojana Nizamovska
aec@mof.org.mk
or bomzich@gmail.com

Moldova

[Educational Advising Center](#)

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

Mongolia

[Educational Advising Center](#)

Sukhbaatar District, Khoroo 8, Khoroolol 11,
Students Street, MKM Building 24, 1st Floor
Ulaanbaatar 210648, Mongolia
Tel: (976 11) 31 90 16
Fax: (976 11) 32 69 41
Contact:
Aruinaa Enkhtur: ariunaa@earcmn.org

Nepal

Alliance for Social Dialogue
GPO Box 25334
Ramchandra Marg, Battisputali
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-4472807
Contact:
Srithi Adhikari: scholarship@asd.org.np;
sadhikari@asd.org.np

Serbia

[Belgrade Open School](#)

Masarikova 5/XVI
Belgrade, 11000, Serbia
Tel. (381 11) 3061 371
Fax (381 11) 3613 112
Contact:
Ana Stevanovic: ana.stevanovic@bos.rs

Tajikistan

[Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–
Tajikistan](#)

Trade and Business Center "VEFA"
37/1 Bokhtar street, 4th floor, room #404
734002, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel: (+992 47) 441-07-45
Fax: (+992 47) 441-07-29
Contact:
Gulnora Choukourbekova: gulnora@osi.tajik.net

Uzbekistan

Educational Center: ["Bilim–Central Asia"](#)
25, Gani Ilyayev Str., Shymkent
160012, Kazakhstan
Tel./Fax (7252) 211981
Contacts:
Larissa Gurbunova: lgorbunova@bilim.kz
Arman Turdaliyev: aturdaliyev@gmail.com

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