



The Torch Prize Fellowship

The light of knowledge uniting the world



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To improve understanding between the United States and other nations means shining light back on what has made America the country it is today – its shared roots and common heritage with the rest of the globe. The Torch Prize Fellowship at New York University will seek to fulfill this international mission through scholarship. The Fellowship will encourage a new generation of American scholars, thinkers and researchers to seek the highest educational achievement and to increase understanding and knowledge of the cultural and social relations shared by the United States and the world.

Torch Prize Fellows will receive a one-year grant to conduct international field research for their doctoral dissertations. Any US doctoral student of any background with interests in research in other nations will be eligible to apply for the Torch Prize Fellowship; for the pilot year of 2008-2009, candidates will be selected from New York University. Special consideration will be given to students who wish to conduct research in their ancestral homelands or regions. Accompanying the grant will be an honorarium for the foreign university, institution or other organization hosting or otherwise assisting the Torch Prize Fellow's research.

Nowhere is the strength of America's richly varied heritage more evident than in New York City or on the campus of NYU, the most internationally diverse university in the United States. No place is better suited to serve as the seat of this new Torch Prize Fellowship -- to help light the way for America's future as a citizen of the world.



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2008-2009

The Torch Prize Fellowship Program has been established to improve understanding between the United States and other nations by promoting research outside the US and focusing on what has helped to make America what it is today – its shared roots and common heritage with the rest of the globe.

The Fellowships will provide grants to exceptional doctoral students who are United States citizens and permanent residents to conduct their final year of dissertation research abroad. International students are also eligible to apply, though the country of their proposed research may not be their home country (i.e. that country indicated on their student visa). The research must be conducted in, and related to, a country or region outside the United States. Special consideration will be given to students who plan to conduct research in the region or country that has a demonstrable and significant connection to the student's family of origin, as the program seeks to encourage scholars to "give back" to the land of their heritage. Research topics will encompass anything that falls within the purview of the arts and sciences.

The program also includes a small honorarium to the host institution of each Fellow to facilitate her/his research and to enable the local public presentation of the research project, in partnership with that public.

New York University is proud again to offer the Torch Prize Fellowship as a pilot program in fall 2007. Departments in the NYU Graduate School of Arts and Science are invited to nominate their most outstanding doctoral students during fall 2007, with support to begin in the fall of 2008.

Terms and Number of Fellowships

The Fellowships are grants for one year of full-time research to be conducted outside the United States. The recipients are chosen on a competitive basis. Three Fellowships will be awarded in the 2007 competition for the 2008-2009 academic year to New York University Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) doctoral students.

The nomination and selection process will take place during fall 2007, with the announcement of selections made in mid-December. Fellows will be expected to begin their research abroad the following September. In some cases, when Fellows are already abroad or if local academic years or other conditions require it, an earlier or later start is possible; the expectation will nevertheless be that the Fellows engage in research for twelve months. Each Fellow will receive a stipend of \$22,000 (paid in two installments, and intended to cover travel, living, and research expenses), a waiver of maintenance and matriculation fees, and 100% coverage of the NYU comprehensive health insurance plan for an individual.

The Fellow will be asked to inform the Program of other awards that she/he has been offered and may be asked to accept a total award package that does not exceed full maintenance and required fees, plus the \$22,000 stipend for the Torch Prize Fellowship. A Fellow may not do work other than dissertation research for more than ten hours per week during the period of the Fellowship without the written permission of her/his Director of Graduate Studies and the GSAS Dean's Office.

Final decisions regarding the appropriate foreign university, institution or other organization to receive the accompanying honorarium will be made in consultation between individual Fellows and the GSAS Dean's Office.

Fellowship Eligibility Standards

The Program is open to citizens and permanent residents of the United States who are currently Ph.D. candidates in good standing in any doctoral program in the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University. Individuals seeking permanent residency must have finalized that status by the application deadline (and will be asked to provide documentary verification). International students are eligible to apply though their country of proposed research may not be the country indicated on their student visa. The research

must be conducted in, and related to, a country or region outside the United States. There is no age limit for individuals applying for the Torch Prize Fellowship.

The research project proposed for Fellowship support must contribute directly to the furtherance and completion of the doctoral dissertation. Research must be conducted in, and relate to, a country or region outside the fifty United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Directors of Graduate Studies will be asked for confirmation of candidates' research plans.

Criteria for selection

The Torch Prize Fellowship was established to recognize and support doctoral research and scholarship of the highest order. Candidates must demonstrate the capacity to do exceptional intellectual work. Past academic performance, commitment to the advancement of international understanding and relations between the United States and other lands, and originality of the research proposed are the principal criteria for evaluation and selection of Fellows.

For the pilot year, 2008-2009, the GSAS faculty Honors and Awards Committee will have the responsibility of evaluating the relevance of each candidate's proposed research and its genuine connection to her or his ancestral homeland and heritage.

Application and Nomination Procedure

Individual departments/graduate programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Science are invited to nominate one outstanding doctoral student per year for Torch Prize Fellowship consideration. These students will also be eligible for nomination to other GSAS fall award and fellowship competitions. Students may not apply directly for the Torch Prize Fellowship without departmental nomination. Students and departments should consult online at <http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.fellowships.html> for the link for "GSAS Fall Awards, including Dean's Dissertation Fellowships" and the "Checklist Chart." The GSAS Honors and Awards Committee, an interdisciplinary committee of nine faculty members from programs throughout the Graduate School, will review nomination materials and evaluate candidates for the Torch Prize Fellowships in late fall. The committee will look with special interest on students who wish to do their research in ancestral homelands or regions. They will make recommendations to Catharine R. Stimpson, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and

Science. In consultation with two NYU Global Visiting Distinguished Professors, who will serve as her advisers for the Torch Prize Fellowship Program, Dean Stimpson will review the Committee's recommendations and select the 2008-2009 Fellows.

All nominees and departments will be notified of decisions before the winter recess. Candidates offered fellowships for 2008-2009 will have until January 31 to respond and accept the Torch Prize Fellowship. A public announcement of the 2008-2009 Torch Prize Fellows will be made in mid-February.

For Further Information:

Visit online at <http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.fellowships.html> or e-mail torch.fellowships@nyu.edu.