



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF
RESEARCH
PROGRAMS

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2010 SUMMER STIPENDS AWARDS: \$6,000
DEADLINE: October 1, 2009

April 2009

TO: Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Leon Bramson
Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs

SUBJECT: NEH Summer Stipends Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities is again preparing for its Summer Stipends competition. The deadline is October 1, 2009. As in the past, we ask that you assist us with the nomination process described in this memorandum. Each institution should designate one person—usually an academic vice-president or dean—to coordinate the nomination process for its faculty. We suggest that the coordinator and others involved in choosing your institution's two nominees familiarize themselves with this memo and with the guidelines and application instructions from the website.

Over the past five years, NEH has awarded over 400 Summer Stipends to allow faculty members to pursue their scholarship during the summer months. The program remains consistent with previous years:

--The amount of a Summer Stipends award is \$6,000

--Summer Stipends accepts applications online only through Grants.gov

Potential applicants and grants administrators are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves early with the new application instructions and guidelines posted on the NEH website at

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/stipends.html>

These guidelines can be consulted by faculty when they draft their proposals for consideration by their nominating officials. Once nominated, applicants should transmit their proposals electronically through the Grants.gov portal. **ONLY THOSE FACULTY WHO ARE NOMINATED SHOULD APPLY (unless they are exempt from nomination).**

ELIGIBILITY

The Endowment's rules involving eligibility for Summer Stipends include the following:

- a) U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who have been living continuously in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least three years prior to the time of application are eligible to apply for a Summer Stipend.
- b) Degree candidates can apply **only** if they have completed all degree requirements by October 1, 2009.
- c) Previous recipients of NEH Summer Stipends must wait five years before they re-apply. Individuals who received awards in 2005 or after cannot apply for a 2010 Summer Stipend.
- d) A person who has received a major fellowship or research grant in the academic year 2007-2008 or after is **not** eligible to apply. A "major fellowship or research grant" is a postdoctoral award of at least \$15,000 that provides support for a continuous period of time equal to at least one term of the academic year (for example, a quarter or a semester); that enables the recipient to engage in scholarly research, personal study, professional development, or writing; and that comes from sources other than the recipient's employer. In this regard, sabbaticals and grants from a person's own institution are **not** considered major fellowships, nor are stipends and grants from other sources supporting study and research during the summer.
- e) Summer Stipends recipients may hold other research grants during the tenure of their awards, but they must devote full-time to their Summer Stipends projects for the two months of their grant tenure.

NOMINATIONS AND PROCEDURES

- a) Except in the cases of exemption noted below (see Items c and d), **applicants teaching full-time in colleges and universities must be nominated by their institutions.**
- b) Each college and university in the United States may nominate **two** members of its faculty for the Summer Stipends competition. Applicants may be either junior or senior faculty members.
- c) Adjunct faculty, part-time faculty, academic faculty with appointments terminating by the summer of 2010, and other scholars not employed by colleges or universities are exempt from nomination and may apply online directly to the NEH.
- d) Non-faculty college and university staff members are eligible for the Summer Stipends program and may apply without nomination provided that they will not be teaching during the 2009-2010 academic year. They should submit their applications online directly to the NEH through Grants.gov

The nomination procedure described above is designed to cast the widest possible net for prospective applicants and to promote a wide distribution of awards. Nomination by an institution does not mean that institutions are being judged in the competition; only individual applications are evaluated.

Please circulate these materials to faculty who teach in the humanities. The act that established the NEH in 1965 says: "The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, theory and criticism of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

Any faculty member with a humanities project may apply for nomination for a Summer Stipend. The field of the project determines the eligibility for nomination to and application for NEH Summer Stipends, not the field of the applicant.

The NEH requests that institutions announce their nominating procedures to all potential applicants. The NEH does not prescribe the nomination procedure to be followed by an institution, but urges that the process be a fair one designed to nominate the best qualified candidates on each campus. The following five criteria will be used by NEH peer reviewers in evaluating Summer Stipends applications:

- 1) The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to scholars and general audiences in the humanities.
- 2) The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities;
- 3) The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project, and the applicant's clarity of expression;
- 4) The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
- 5) The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.

Applicants will need the name, title, and e-mail address of their institution's nominating official before they can submit their online application. Immediately after the deadline, the nominating official will be notified via e-mail with instructions for verifying the nomination online. After logging on with their name and e-mail address, the nominating officials will then be asked to confirm the status of applicants from their institutions. The Summer Stipends application deadline is October 1, 2009. It is a receipt deadline. **All nominations must be confirmed by October 20th.** Both nominating officials and applicants will be notified by e-mail when nominations have been confirmed. **Since the nominating official's e-mail address is a key identifier in this online process, both applicants and officials must be sure that it is entered correctly.**

The results of the competition will be announced in March, 2010. If you have questions, contact the Summer Stipends program by telephone at 202-606-8200 or e-mail at stipends@neh.gov