



Presidential Fellows Program

Application Deadline: **March 27**

If you are considering applying, please contact the NIFS Office to set up an appointment with an adviser soon.

This unique non-resident program offers select undergraduate seniors and recent graduates a year-long opportunity to study: the U.S. Presidency, the public policymaking process, or Chief Executive's relations with Congress, allies, the media and the American public.

Presidential Fellows attend three-day leadership conferences in Washington, D.C. twice a year and discuss national issues with: Presidential scholars, White House fellows, senior government officials, and nationally recognized public policy experts.

The culmination of the Fellowship year consists of the student's original research paper on the modern Presidency, written with the help of a faculty advisor from MSU and a Center-appointed Mentor. Students present their papers at each conference, are eligible to receive two awards, and compete for publication in the annual anthology *A Dialogue on Presidential Challenges and Leadership*.

Eligibility

- Strong academic credentials (minimum 3.5 GPA).
- Strong writing and presentation skills.
- Demonstrated interest in American government and international affairs.
- All academic majors are eligible.
- Typical majors or minors: political science, history, international affairs, business, philosophy, economics, public health, or journalism.
- Most applicants are in the final year of their undergraduate studies, but graduate students and advanced undergraduates are also welcome.

Requirement for Fellows

- Upon program enrollment, Fellows must meet all deadlines or forfeit their status as a Presidential Fellow in good standing.
- Students will select a research field and policy scenario that serves as their group designation. Only papers related to the assigned topic will receive honors.
- Fellows must engage with their assigned Mentor
- Fellows attend two conferences in Washington, DC, during the course of the Fellowship year. The Fall conference finalizes collaboration team assignments that prepare students for the Spring conference group presentations. For 2015-2016, the dates of these conferences are October 18-24, 2015 and March 19-25, 2016. Presentation honors are eligible only to students attending both conferences.
- Each Fellow undertakes an original research project on a subject with direct relevance to the U.S. Presidency and/or the Congress AND specific to their group assignment. Within the group, each member is responsible for producing an 8 to 15-page paper (single spaced) on that subject, due in May. Fellows are encouraged to draw upon and incorporate independent study or thesis work that is being undertaken by them in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Application Materials (All materials must be submitted to the NIFS Office by March 27)

- NIFS Intent To Apply Form: <http://nifs.msu.edu/webform/msu-nifs-internal-application-intent-apply>
- Application form
- Current resume (with summer contact information)
- Writing sample (previous coursework accepted)
- 1,000 word essay addressing interest in the Presidential Fellows Program, how your studies and experiences have prepared you for this opportunity, and a project proposal
- One letter of recommendation from the faculty member who will serve as a mentor and oversee the project mentor during the fellowship.
- Official transcript(s)

National and International Fellowships and Scholarships (NIFS) Office

434 Farm Lane, Room 186 Bessey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824 USA
nifs@msu.edu | 517-884-7650 | www.nifs.msu.edu