

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans Program Requirements

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans provide opportunities for continuing generations of able and accomplished New Americans to achieve leadership in their chosen fields. The Program is established in recognition of the contributions New Americans have made to American life and in gratitude for the opportunities the United States has afforded the donors and their family.

What is the Program and how many Fellowships for New Americans are offered?

The Fellowships are grants for up to two years of graduate study in the United States. The recipients are chosen on a nationally competitive basis. Thirty Fellowships will be awarded each year.

Who is eligible to become a Fellow?

A *New American* is an individual who (1) is a resident alien, i.e., holds a Green Card; or (2) has been naturalized as a US citizen; or (3) is the child of two parents who are both naturalized citizens.

The Program is open to individuals who retain loyalty and a sense of commitment to their country of origin as well as to the United States, but it is intended to support individuals who will continue to regard the United States as their *principal* residence and focus of national identity.

The applicant must either have a bachelor's degree or be in her/his final year of undergraduate study. Those who have a bachelor's degree may already be pursuing graduate study and may receive Fellowship support to continue that study. 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.

To be eligible you must not be older than thirty years of age as of **NOVEMBER 1, 2008**.

What are the criteria for selection?

Candidates must demonstrate the relevance of graduate education to their long-term career goals and potential in enhancing their contributions to society. Fellowships are not solely awarded on the basis of academic record. The academic record is relevant as evidence of the candidate's ability to complete successfully a graduate degree program and it strengthens the demonstration of achieving the Program's specific criteria for selection.

A successful candidate will give evidence of at least two of the following three attributes or criteria for selection: (1) creativity, originality, and initiative, demonstrated in any area of her/his life; (2) a capacity for accomplishment, demonstrated through activity that has required drive and sustained effort; and (3) a commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The third

criterion 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.

What does a Fellow receive?

Each year the Fellow receives a maintenance grant of \$20,000 (paid in two installments) and a tuition grant of one-half the tuition cost of the US graduate program attended by the Fellow (up to a maximum of \$16,000 per academic year). The Fellowship Program pays the tuition grant directly to the institution. The size of the tuition grant depends on the cost of tuition at the institution the Fellow attends. Fees are not included in calculating tuition. If the program pursued is less than two years or the remainder of the Fellow's degree residence is less than two years, the Fellow receives the amount to cover the period required for the degree. Joint degree programs will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It is expected that the Fellow will complete the cost of tuition from such other sources as summer employment, public and private grant and loan programs for advanced education, or matching funds from the graduate institution the Fellow attends. 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 combined award package that does not exceed full tuition and required fees, plus \$30,000 for maintenance. A Fellow may not work during the period of the Fellowship without the permission of the Director.

What may a Fellow study?

A Fellow may pursue a graduate degree in any professional field (e.g., engineering, medicine, law, social work, etc.) or scholarly discipline in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The Fine and Performing Arts are included. The Trustees strongly encourage applications from candidates who have not yet begun their graduate studies, but full consideration will be given to candidates in the first or second years of graduate studies in their current program.

Are there any limitations to where a Fellow may study?

A Fellow may study at any accredited graduate program in the United States. It is the responsibility of the Fellow to secure admission.

When does the Fellowship Program begin?

The application and selection process will take place in the late fall and winter, and Fellows will be expected to begin their graduate study no later than the following September. Successful Fellows already undertaking graduate work may be supported during the semester they are selected.

May a Fellowship be deferred?

No.

What does applying entail?

Applicants are required: 1) to complete an online application form; 2) to submit two essays on specified topics; 3) to submit a 1-2 page resume; 4) to assure the submission of three recommendation letters, of which one is from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's current or most recent academic work and one is from someone who is familiar with her/his performance in a work-setting, whether paid or volunteer; 5) to submit an institutional status form from the institution 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); candidates who have a bachelor's degree and have not yet enrolled in a graduate program need not provide this form; 6) to assure the submission of a transcript from the applicant's undergraduate institution, and if her/his graduate training is already in progress, from the graduate institution as well; candidates may submit a photocopy of the transcript; 7) to submit documentary evidence that the applicant meets, as of **NOVEMBER 1, 2008**, the definition of *New American* as detailed in the second page; and 8) to have taken and submitted to the Fellowship Program, by the second week of **December 2008**, scores from any graduate aptitude test (e.g., GMAT, MCAT, GRE, LSAT) required by programs to which the applicant has applied; candidates may submit a photocopy of the score report; this requirement does not pertain to students in programs where portfolios or auditions determine admissions.

Where may an application be obtained?

- Applications are available on our website (www.pdsoros.org) and should be submitted via the *Online Application System* (preferred method).
- Applications can also be downloaded from our website and submitted by mail.

What is the selection process?

After screening, 84 candidates will be selected for interviews. The interviewees will be distinguished New Americans. The Program will provide funding for travel and accommodations. After its recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the Program's Board of Trustees, the class of Fellows will be announced in February. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply if they continue to meet the program requirements.

What are the responsibilities of a Fellow?

A Fellow must obtain admission into a graduate academic program. Upon admission and matriculation, a Fellow must show continued progress towards the degree (i.e., a transcript must be submitted after each academic year of the Fellowship) and provide a final report to the Program Director. The Fellowship Program staff may require other evidence of progress.

A member of the Program staff will visit each Fellow at her/his campus.

A Fellow's attendance at graduate school must be continuous and at the same institution; any modification requires approval of the Program Director.

In addition, a Fellow is required to attend a Fellows' Conference Program of two days in New York City twice during the tenure of the award. The Program pays for all costs associated with the Fellows' Conference Program. Fellows will be given ample advance notice of the dates and locations of the Conference programs.

When is the deadline for application?

The completed application must be submitted via the online applications system or postmarked by

NOVEMBER 1, 2008.

How may I be in touch with the Soros Program?

You may do so by writing:

Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans
400 West 59th Street
New York, NY 10019

or by Telephone (212-547-6926)

or by Email (pdsoros_fellows@sorosny.org).

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.

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans

400 West 59th Street

New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-547-6926

E-Mail: pdsoros_fellows@sorosny.org

Website: www.pdsoros.org



The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships For New Americans

Recommendation Form

Dear Colleague:

_____ is applying for a fellowship to undertake graduate study. The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans is a highly competitive program, with an average of 900 applications for 30 awards. It is also quite distinctive in what is sought of candidates. Awards are made to individuals who are deemed to have best demonstrated in any areas of their lives: (1) *creativity, originality, and initiative*; (2) *accomplishment, activity that requires drive and sustained effort*; (3) *commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights*.

We would be grateful if you would comment on the candidate from your experience, especially in relationship to the attributes we seek, and indicate over what period, how well, and in what capacity you have known the candidate. Please send your letter directly to The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, 400 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019; or by email pdsoros_fellows@sorosny.org. We would be very grateful to have your letter by ***NOVEMBER 1, 2008***.

Name _____

Date _____



The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships For New Americans

APPLICATION FORM

Application deadline is a postmark of NOVEMBER 1, 2008. Please type or print neatly.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| NAME | |
| First Name(s): | Last Name: |
| Current Mailing Address: | |
| City/State/Zip Code: | |
| Phone Number: | Email: |
| Social Security Number: _____ | Gender: F _____ M _____ |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Date of Birth: _____ | Place of Birth: _____ |
| Date of arrival to the US (if different): _____ | |
| Date of arrival of parents to the US: _____ | |
| Mother's Name: _____ | Place of Birth: _____ |
| Father's Name: _____ | Place of Birth: _____ |
| Places of Family Origins: | |
| First Language: | Other Languages: |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Are you? | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Card Holder | Alien Registration Number | A# _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized Citizen | Citizenship Number | _____ |
| | | Date of Naturalization | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Son/Daughter of Naturalized Parents | Father's Citizenship Number | _____ |
| | | Date of Naturalization | _____ |
| | | Mother's Citizenship Number | _____ |
| | | Date of Naturalization | _____ |

Note: Please submit copies of pertinent identification.

| |
|---|
| Permanent Address (if different from current mailing address): |
| |
| City/State/Zip Code: |
| Phone Number: |
| Email: |

| |
|--------------------------|
| Parents' Names: |
| Parents' Address: |
| Parents' Phone: |
| Email: |

EDUCATION LEVEL: Please indicate below whether you are currently in an undergraduate or graduate program. If you are not currently enrolled in a program, please mark *Not Enrolled*. (*)**Transitional graduate programs** are those where you are currently enrolled but do not intend to pursue under this Fellowship.

Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____
 Transitional Graduate Program* _____ Not Enrolled _____

HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: List all institutions of higher education that you have attended at the UNDERGRADUATE level; please indicate below the degree awarded or expected (e.g. BA).

| Institution | Degree | Major | GPA | Dates Attended (e.g. 9/02 – 6/06) |
|-------------|--------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

GRADUATE EDUCATION:
CURRENT GRADUATE INSTITUTION. Please indicate below the degree expected (e.g. MS, JD, PhD). If you are in a dual degree program please list each graduate program on a separate line indicating clearly your current status in each program.

| Institution | Program | Degree | GPA | Status in Program (e.g. 1 st year JD) |
|-------------|---------|--------|-----|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

PREVIOUS GRADUATE INSTITUTION. List all previous institutions that you have attended at the GRADUATE level with the most recent first. Please indicate below the degree awarded (e.g. MA, MPH).

| Institution | Program | Degree | GPA | Dates Attended (e.g. 9/03 – 6/05) |
|-------------|---------|--------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Please submit copies of transcripts for all programs attended (undergraduate and graduate). Photocopies may be submitted.

PLEASE LIST GRADUATE SCHOOLS TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING AND WISH TO ATTEND UNDER THIS FELLOWSHIP. If currently enrolled in a graduate program and are seeking a Soros Fellowship to pursue this program, please indicate and include in this section. You may attach another sheet.

| Institution | Department/Program | Degree Sought |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Note: Awarding of a Soros Fellowship depends on admission into a graduate program. This is the responsibility of the candidate.

TEST SCORES

Have you taken the required graduate aptitude test (e.g. GMAT, GRE) that is required for your current or proposed graduate program?

Yes _____ No _____ Test Taken _____ Not Required _____

Date Taken:

Score:

If not taken, when scheduled?

Note: Score must be available by the second week of December 2008. You may provide a photocopy of the score report.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Please indicate below and in Application Essay 1 how you fulfill these criteria by your life experience and activities:

i. *Creativity, originality and initiative, demonstrated in any area of your life*

ii. *Capacity for accomplishment, demonstrated through activity that requires drive and sustained effort*

iii. *Commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights*

Candidates must submit a one- to two-page resume. In addition, up to five pages of exhibits may be submitted to corroborate their achievements regarding the above criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants must ensure that recommendations are sent directly to the Program by

NOVEMBER 1, 2008**FIRST RECOMMENDATION**

First Name (s):

Last Name:

Title :

Institution:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

SECOND RECOMMENDATION

First Name (s):

Last Name:

Title:

Institution:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

THIRD RECOMMENDATION

First Name (s):

Last Name:

Title:

Institution:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

Where did you hear about The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans?

University Authorities _____

Soros Fellows _____

Other Students _____

Internet _____

Paul & Daisy Soros Website _____

News Media _____

Soros Poster _____

Student Organization List Serves _____

Professional Affiliation List Serves _____

Ethnic & National List Serves _____

Other (please indicate) _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____



APPLICANT ESSAY 1

Please write in essay form about your experience as a New American. Indicate, if appropriate, the role of family and other institutions in bringing you to the position you now hold. Also indicate what activities you have undertaken that might give evidence of creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the values expressed in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Your essay should be not more than 1,000 words in length and should be typed and double-line spaced. As long as your essay is dated and all of the pages are clearly identified with your name, “Applicant Essay 1” and a page number, you do not need to submit this form.

Name: _____

Date: _____



APPLICANT ESSAY 2

Please indicate in essay form your major goals for your career and how your education will further them. Your essay should be not more than 1,000 words in length and should be typed and double-line spaced. As long as your essay is dated and all of the pages are clearly identified with your name, "Applicant Essay 2" and a page number, you do not need to submit this form.

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships For New Americans

Institutional Status Form

Dear Colleague:

_____ is applying for a fellowship to undertake graduate study.

Please indicate whether this candidate is currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. Section A is for undergraduate candidates (including those who are simultaneously registered for a graduate degree). Section B is for candidates who have completed their undergraduate degree and are currently enrolled in a graduate degree program.

SECTION A. STATUS OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

1. Is the candidate currently in good standing in her/his degree program? _____
2. When is it expected that the candidate will graduate? _____

SECTION B. STATUS OF GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

1. What graduate degree program is the candidate currently enrolled in? _____
2. When did the candidate begin graduate study in this field?
Beginning Date _____
Current Status in Program (e.g. 1st year JD) _____
3. How many more years would normally be required to complete requirements for the degree?
Number of additional years required _____
4. Is the candidate currently in good standing in her/his degree program? _____

Please send this form directly to The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, 400 West 59th St., New York, NY 10019; or by email: pdsoros_fellows@sorosny.org. We would be very grateful to have the form by **NOVEMBER 1, 2008**.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title & Institution: _____

Date: _____

*Please note, candidates who have a bachelor's degree and are not currently enrolled in a graduate program need not provide this form.