

2020-21 Call for Applications

The application for the 2020-21 Peace Scholars competition opens on Wednesday, September 4.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowship program awards non-residential fellowships to students enrolled in U.S. universities who are writing doctoral dissertations on a variety of topics that contribute to a deeper understanding of how to manage conflict and effectively build sustainable peace. Since 1988, the program has supported the dissertations of 312 young scholars, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in research, teaching and policy making.

Applicants whose research has broader implications to the peacebuilding field and relevance to policy and/or practice are encouraged to apply. Dissertation scholarships last for 10 months, beginning in September each year. Scholarships are open to citizens of any country enrolled in accredited U.S. universities. The Peace Scholars Fellowship includes distinct funding from USIP and the Minerva Initiative (see below).

Proposal Topics

Proposals from all disciplines and on a wide range of topics related to peacebuilding are welcome. There are several criteria that will strengthen proposals:

- Proposals should be consistent with USIP's mission and present a research agenda with broader implications to the peacebuilding field as well as potential application to peacebuilding policy and/or practice.
- To be competitive, applicants must consider the implications of their research on the peacebuilding field. Additionally, applicants should outline the links between their projects and the missions of the **U.S. Institute of Peace** and/or the **Minerva Initiative**.
- We are looking for proposals that contribute to the general knowledge of the field by either testing or developing theories. Applicants should present a persuasive argument on how their research makes a basic or fundamental research contribution to the field and an explanation of how their basic research contributions address key concerns of conflict management and peacebuilding that may include (but are not limited to) security and stability.

Applying for a Peace Scholar Fellowship is a two-step process

Registration Applicants must first register for an account [here](#). After registration, login credentials will be sent to access the [online](#) application portal. **Please Register early!** It can take up to 48 hours to receive registration credentials, so applicants should register as soon as possible.

Application Applications must be submitted through the FLUXX online application system. On the application form, please indicate the scholarship for which you would like to be considered: the USIP Peace Scholar fellowship only; Minerva Research Initiative Peace and Security Fellowship only; or no preference.

- Both fellowships have the same application form, deadline, award amount, and selection process; the only difference between the USIP and Minerva Fellowships is the source of funding.
- **Three letters of recommendation** must be attached to your application in the FLUXX system. One letter must be from your dissertation advisor and two from current professors.

Deadlines

- **Registration** for the 2020-21 Peace Scholar competition opens on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 and closes on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11 pm EDT.
- **Completed applications** and three letters of recommendation must be submitted by **Tuesday, October 15, 2019** 11 pm EDT. Any applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered for this competition.

- Please carefully review your application before submitting. Once an application is submitted, it can no longer be accessed or revised.

*Please note: The application system works best when using **Google Chrome** as your web browser. If you are experiencing issues with the application system, please email irprogram@usip.org. If the answer requires more than an email, we will schedule a time to help you by phone.*

Criteria for Peace Scholar Applications

Applications will be assessed using the four criteria below:

1. **Proposal's Relevance to the Identified 'Issue Area' and its Unique Contribution**

How well does this research project address the identified issue area? Does the proposal address a gap in knowledge and/or understanding about the issue? Is the research original?

2. **Potential to Advance the Peacebuilding Field**

How relevant and important to peacebuilding policy and practice is this proposed research? What is the likelihood of the research to affect policy and/or practice? How does this work relate to either the USIP and/or Minerva mission?

3. **Research Integrity**

Is there a clearly stated hypothesis with sound methodology and a convincing research plan?

4. **Basic Research**

Is this research a systematic study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of the 'issue area' including observable facts that have the potential to inform broad, rather than specific applications toward processes? Applicants should speak to the potential implications of their project beyond their specific case studies or countries (if applicable).

Terms of the Award

Peace Scholars may be awarded stipends of up to \$20,000 per academic year. Awards are paid directly to the individual in three tranches. Peace Scholar fellowships may not be deferred. The Peace Scholar Dissertation fellowship cannot be combined with any other major residential award or fellowship except with the written approval of USIP. If written approval from USIP is granted, \$30,000 is the maximum combined amount from all funding sources that a Peace Scholar can receive during their tenure.

Minerva Research Initiative fellowships are divided between awards that support field-work and awards that support writing. USIP Peace Scholar fellowships may be used for any phase of work on dissertations. Peace Scholars carry out their fellowship work at their universities or other sites appropriate to their research. Peace Scholars are expected to devote full attention to their work and provide three dissertation update reports to USIP. Peace Scholars are expected to participate in the annual Peace Scholar Workshop each Fall. Peace Scholars may also be asked to prepare and publish an on-line blog or an op-ed focused on their research.

Upon completion of their dissertation, Peace Scholars are REQUIRED to submit a copy to USIP.

Restrictions of the Award

Please note that the Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowship program does not support pre-dissertation level graduate work. Doctoral students in non-U.S. based universities are not eligible. The fellowships cannot support research focused on U.S. domestic issues, however, research on U.S. Government foreign policy is eligible for support. Peace Scholar awards may not be made for projects that constitute policymaking for a government agency or private organization, focus to any substantial degree on conflicts within U.S. domestic society, or adopt a partisan, advocacy, or activist stance.