

PEACESCHOLARFELLOWS



United States Institute of Peace 2021-22 Peace Scholar Fellowship Request for Applications (RfA)

The application for the 2021-22 Peace Scholars competition is now available.
Registration closes on September 23, 2020.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) **Peace Scholar Fellowship** program awards non-residential fellowships to students enrolled in U.S. universities who are writing doctoral dissertations on topics broadly related to conflict management, peacebuilding and other relevant security studies. Since 1988, the program has supported the dissertations of 332 young scholars, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in research, higher education, and policymaking.

General Information

Applicants whose research has broader implications for the peacebuilding field and relevance to policy and/or practice are encouraged to apply. Additionally, outstanding applications that contribute to the general knowledge of the field by either testing or developing theories are welcomed.

Peace Scholar Fellowships are for a period of ten months, beginning in September and ending the following June. Citizens of any country enrolled in accredited U.S. universities may apply for the Fellowship. The Peace Scholars Fellowship awards are funded through USIP and the Minerva Research Initiative (see below).

Eligibility and Restrictions of the Award

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. foreign policy may be eligible for support. Fellowships will not be awarded for dissertation 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.

Application

All applications must be submitted through the **FLUXX system**. On the application form please indicate the funding source for which you would like to be considered: (1) the USIP Peace Scholar Fellowship; (2) Minerva Research Initiative Peace and Security Fellowship; or (3) no preference.

- Both fellowship opportunities 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.
- **Two letters of recommendation** are required for your application in the FLUXX system. One letter must be from your dissertation advisor and the other from a current professor.

Deadlines

- **Registration** for the 2021-22 Peace Scholar competition opens on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 and closes on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.
- **Completed applications** and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by **Wednesday, October 14, 2020**. 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 JenningsRandolphFellows@usip.org. If the answer requires more than an email, we will schedule a time to assist you by phone.*

Criteria for Peace Scholar Applications

Applications will be assessed using the three criteria below:

1. Contribution

Is this research innovative or unique and does it have the potential to contribute to and improve the conflict management, peacebuilding and/or related security studies fields? Does this research have the potential to improve the understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral and/or political forces that shape the issues in the application?

2. Relevance

Are there clear and substantial connections between the research and the USIP mission, and/or the Minerva Research Initiative mission? How relevant is the project to conflict management and peacebuilding policy and practice? Additionally, applicants should outline the linkages between their projects and the specific missions of the [U.S. Institute of Peace](#) and/or the [Minerva Research Initiative](#).

3. Research

How generalizable is this research and what are the broader implications of your project? How predictive are the findings? Does the project uncover lessons learned? Does the project description clearly explain methodologies for how data will be analyzed to test hypotheses?

Terms of the Award

Peace Scholars are awarded stipends of up to \$20,000 per academic year. Awards are paid directly to the individual in three tranches during the ten-month period. A Peace Scholar Fellowship award may not be deferred to another year, nor can it be combined with any other 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 fellowship tenure.

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 progress reports to USIP. Peace Scholars are expected to participate in the annual Peace Scholar Workshop each Fall. Peace Scholars may also be asked to participate in online discussions with the Peace Scholar cohort and USIP experts.

Upon completion of their dissertation, Peace Scholars are required to submit a copy of the dissertation to USIP. In addition, USIP requires the submission of other publications, including articles and books resulting from the Fellowship.

For questions, please contact the USIP Grants & Fellowships team at JenningsRandolphFellows@usip.org.