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The JR Program for International Peace awards Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowships to students enrolled in U.S. universities who are researching and writing doctoral dissertations on topics related to international conflict management and peacebuilding. Proposals from all disciplines are welcome.

Proposals should be consistent with the Institute's mission and present a research agenda with clear relevance to policy issues. Historical topics are appropriate if they promise to shed light on contemporary issues. Area studies projects and single case studies will be competitive if they focus on conflict and its resolution, apply to other regions and cases, or both.

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.

1. Eligible Candidates

Citizens of any country may apply. Applicants must be enrolled in recognized doctoral programs (for example, Ph.D., S.J.D., Ed.D., Th.D.) in accredited universities in the United States. Successful candidates must have completed all course work and examinations towards their doctoral degrees by the time their fellowships begin.

2. Selection Process

Peace Scholar applications are vetted through a rigorous, multi-stage review that includes consideration by independent experts and professional staff at the Institute. The final authority for decisions about Peace Scholar awards rests with the Institute's Board of Directors.

3. Selection Criteria

Selection of fellowship candidates is based on the following criteria:

- **Project Significance.** Does the project address an important topic of relevance to the USIP mandate and the field of international peacebuilding and conflict management and analysis?

- **Policy and/or practitioner relevance.** Does the project demonstrate links to policy and practice in the fields of conflict management, conflict analysis and peacebuilding?
- **Project Design.** Is the project soundly conceived? Does it identify a key problem to be analyzed and does it have a clear methodology?
- **Potential as a Peace Scholar.** What is the applicant's record of achievement and/or leadership potential? What is the applicant's capacity to benefit from and make professional use of the fellowship experience in subsequent years?

4. Terms of Award

Peace Scholar Awards are currently set at \$20,000 for 10 months and are paid directly to the individual. Peace Scholar awards may not be deferred. They generally may not be combined with any other major award or fellowship except in special circumstances and with the written approval of the Institute.

Peace Scholars carry out their fellowship work at their universities or other sites appropriate to their research. They are expected to devote full attention to their work and provide periodic reports to the Institute. Peace Scholars may be invited to give a presentation at the Institute and to participate in Institute workshops, conferences, and other activities.

5. Components of a Successful Proposal

There is no single formula for preparing a sound proposal. However, many successful applications for USIP Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowships have certain elements in common. These elements are outlined in the document attached below.

- [Read "Components of a Successful Proposal" \(.pdf\)](#)

6. Letters of Reference

Please provide the contact information (address, email and telephone) of your three referees. This information will permit the system to generate emails to referees and space for them to upload their letters either after you have clicked on the "NOTIFY" button after entering their contact information, as well as after you have submitted your application, at which point the system will generate the emails automatically. One should be your primary advisor; one of the remaining two referees should be a professor at your university.

Referees should not be related to you and should have direct and recent knowledge of your qualifications, activities, and character. Please do not submit more than three names altogether.

You must notify your referees ahead of time that you will be listing them as references. Send each referee one copy of your application and the Instructions for Referees, which they can refer to while writing your letters. It is possible that these emails will go to spam filters. After clicking on Notify or submitting your application, please check that your referees received the emails, and, if they haven't, ask them to check their spam filters. If the referees are not able to submit electronically, they must email their letters as PDF attachments with the applicant's name in the subject line to Dr. Elizabeth Cole, the Senior Program Officer for the Jennings Randolph

Fellowship Program, at: ecole@usip.org.

PLEASE NOTE that you are responsible for making sure that your reference letters are submitted and posted by the deadline for letters (one week after the application deadline! You can check on your letters while you are working on your application as well as after you have submitted it by signing into Webgrants and looking at the References section of your application. It is a good idea to let your referees know that the letters posted successfully, too. Please do not write to USIP Fellowship staff to ask about your letters or to ask staff to contact your referees on your behalf.

No hard copies of reference letters, please.

If you have additional questions or would like further information about the fellowship program, please contact the JR Program at: jrprogram@usip.org