



Education USA Weekly Update

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I. Scholarships and Fellowships

Visiting Scholars Program

<http://www.amacad.org/visiting.aspx>

The purpose of the Visiting Scholars Program is to support the work of younger public policy analysts, humanists, and social scientists who show promise of becoming leaders in their field, especially those who work on multidisciplinary topics. The Program offers opportunities for them to carry out their individual research as well as to collaborate with Academy Fellows on shared scholarly or policy-related interests. It also helps to create a national network for scholars in the early stages of their career, assisting them in their research and professional development. Finally, it has established the House of the Academy as an active research center for intensive scholarship by individuals from diverse disciplinary, institutional, and geographic backgrounds. The VSP is an important way to share the Academy's extraordinary intellectual resources, including many of America's most distinguished leaders in science, scholarship, public affairs, and business and the arts and to invest in the future of the next generation.

In addition to providing time for independent research, the VSP arranges conferences involving colleagues from the Boston area and beyond. Visiting Scholars have the opportunity to join in seminars sponsored by the Academy's program areas as well as to participate in social gatherings and other regularly scheduled Academy activities. Neighboring universities and research institutions partner with the Academy in the work of the Program.

Scholars are chosen by means of a national competition. Most reply to a request for proposals circulated via websites and electronic mailing lists as well as through targeted mailings to academic departments and relevant scholarly councils and associations. Applications are reviewed by Fellows expert in the candidates' fields; their recommendations are passed on to a final advisory committee that takes into account not only the quality of the applications but also the fields, institutions, and geographical areas represented by the candidates. Seven/eight scholars and practitioners are chosen annually.

Patricia Meyer Spacks, President of the Academy, 2001-2006, and Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English, Emerita, University of Virginia, serves as chair of the VSP.

Some fifty academic institutions from across the country have become [University Affiliates](#) of the Academy, with a special interest in developing and supporting the VSP.

The Visiting Scholars Program is undertaken in collaboration with the Harvard Humanities Center, which provides access to the university's research facilities and works with the Academy to plan joint lectures, seminars, and informal discussions.

Over the past four years, the Visiting Scholars Program has grown in stature and visibility. Applications have increased 70 percent since 2002. The outstanding teaching and research appointments the "alumni" have received, their published and forthcoming books and articles, and their enthusiasm about the benefits of the Academy experience reflect the success of the program.

Folger Shakespeare Library Offers Short- and Long-Term Fellowships

Deadline: Various

Contact an EducationUSA adviser near you for guidance on finding and applying to an accredited U.S. college or university

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>

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The Folger Shakespeare Library (<http://www.folger.edu/>) in Washington, D.C., offers research fellowships to encourage access to its exceptional collections and to encourage ongoing cross-disciplinary dialogue among scholars of the early modern period. Each year, scholars may compete for a limited number of long-term (six to nine months) and short-term (one to three months) fellowships.

Long-term fellows are selected by an external committee that considers the following criteria in making its selections: importance of the topic; originality and sophistication of the approach; feasibility of the research objectives; and the applicant's need for the Folger collections. The Folger is open to traditional as well as innovative scholarly methodologies and agendas. Two Mellon Research Fellowships will be awarded and carry stipends of \$50,000 and \$40,000. Three National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships will be awarded and carry maximum stipends of \$40,000. NEH Fellowships are restricted to U.S. citizens or to foreign nationals who have been living in the United States for at least three years. Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are open to scholars from any country. The application deadline is November 1 of the year preceding the one in which an applicant plans to take up his or her residency.

Short-term fellowships carry a stipend of \$2,000 per month. The criteria for success in the annual short-term fellowship competition are the same as those for long-term fellowships, although the internal selection committee tends to value need for the collection above other considerations. Each year the Folger awards twenty to thirty short-term fellowships. The application deadline is March 1 of the year in which an applicant plans to take up his or her residency.

Knight News Challenge Invites Innovative Digital Media Projects

Deadline: October 15, 2007

A program of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (<http://www.knightfoundation.org/>), the Knight News Challenge (<http://www.newschallenge.org/>) will award a total of \$5 million in grants in 2007 for projects designed to transform community news.

The competition is open to nonprofits, companies, or individuals of any age and anywhere in the world. Projects must meet all of the following criteria: 1) use digital media; 2) involve new forms of news in the public interest; and 3) focus on a specific geographic community.

Projects can be submitted in the following categories: 1) Idea, for good ideas, even if they are not fully formed; 2) Pilot Project & Field Test, to support the development of innovative pilot projects, prototypes, field tests, or trials that use news to inform or inspire physical, geographic community; 3) Leadership, to turn pilot projects into trends, or to find the best among competing technologies or ideas, or to bring people together in new networks to achieve greater collective impact; and 4) New Business Ventures, for products or companies that will have positive social impact.

Visit the program's Web site for complete application procedures and examples of winning projects.

Human Rights Watch Fellowship

Scholarship / Financial aid: \$47,000

Date: full time for one year beginning with September 2008

Deadline: October 5, 2007

Open to: law, journalism, international relations, or area studies graduates with degrees

This year Human Rights Watch will award four fellowships to recent graduates of law schools or graduate programs (master's degree and above) in journalism, international relations, area studies, or other relevant disciplines. The Alan R. and Barbara D. Finberg Fellowship is open to any candidate who meets these criteria. The Leonard H. Sandler Fellowship is restricted to graduates of Columbia Law School. The Arthur Helton Fellowship is restricted to graduates of New York University School of Law.

In addition to the fellowships offered by Human Rights Watch, graduates of the Yale University School of Law may apply directly to the law school for the Bernstein Fellowship. Human Rights Watch encourages prospective Bernstein fellows to make arrangements to work with Human Rights Watch and to include those arrangements in their applications to Yale for the fellowship.

Fellows work full time for one year at Human Rights Watch, based in New York City, Washington, D.C., or London. Fellows monitor human rights developments in various countries, conduct on-site investigations, draft reports on human rights conditions, and engage in advocacy aimed at publicizing and curtailing human rights violations. Past fellows have conducted fact-finding missions to, among other places, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, India (including Kashmir and Punjab), Iran, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Moldova, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, the U.S.-Mexican border, and Venezuela.

Qualifications

Applicants must have exceptional analytic skills, an ability to write and speak clearly, and a commitment to work in the human rights field in the future on a paid or volunteer basis. Proficiency in one language in addition to English is strongly recommended. Familiarity with countries or regions where serious human rights violations occur is also valued. Fellows must be

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law, journalism, international relations, or area studies graduates with degrees received after January 2005 and before August 2008, or must provide evidence of significant, comparable, relevant work experience. Fellowships begin in September 2008.

Salary and Benefits

The salary for the 2007-2008 fellows is \$47,000, plus excellent employer-paid benefits. The salary for 2008-2009 fellows is currently under review.

How to Apply

Please send a complete application packet that includes the following:

- a.. cover letter
- b.. résumé (curriculum vitae)
- c.. two letters of recommendation
- d.. unedited, unpublished writing sample
- e.. official law or graduate school transcript (applicants in one-year graduate programs should supply an undergraduate transcript with a list of their graduate school courses)

Complete applications (including transcripts and recommendations) for 2008-2009 fellowships must be received by October 5, 2007, so applicants should allow sufficient time to collect the required materials in advance of the deadline. Complete applications should be sent to Human Rights Watch, Attn: Fellowship Committee, 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10118-3299.

Applicants must be available for interviews in New York from early November to mid-December 2007.

Emailing/Faxing Parts of Your Application

Applications must be submitted by mail, under a single cover. However, under truly extenuating circumstances and only with prior written approval from us, you may send in an application or part of an application by email or fax, by the deadline of October 5, 2007. Lateness of an application does not constitute extenuating circumstances. Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted without prior written approval from Human Rights Watch.

For further information visit the website: <http://www.hrw.org/>

II. News you can use

The European Library

http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/user_registration.html

You can register at The European Library. As a registered user you are able to:

- * save favorites for referencing at a later date
- * save session query history for referencing at a later date

Services will be expanded in the near future to include:

- * save selected collections for use at a later date
- * receive email alerts concerning collections of interest
- * receive email alerts concerning subjects of interest

http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/organisation/about_us/aboutus_en.html

The European Library provides a central gateway to access the online catalogues and digital collections of Europe's national libraries.

This means you can:

* Search in the collections of up to 20 national libraries at once and get results from all over Europe - you can also choose which language you would like The European Library website in.

* Check if your item is online: who better to ask than Europe's national libraries

http://libraries.theeuropeanlibrary.org/libraries_en.xml

* Find the physical location of your item if it is not digitally available, and get direct access to the 'delivery' services offered by the national libraries

* Access from the search results the online availability resources beyond The European Library: online bookshops to purchase the selected item, search engines to investigate further, etc.

You can also explore the digital collections and catalogues of Europe's national libraries. Take a look under the "collections" button. Registration is free.

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Random Thoughts

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/Columns.html>

Professor Richard M. Felder has been involved in teaching engineering for over thirty years, and his column has appeared in the journal, Chemical Engineering, since 1988. Professor Felder retired several years ago, but he has made a point of continuing with his rather timely and useful updates about the world of teaching in the college classroom. Visitors to this site can scan through some of his pieces, which cover everything from the importance of active learning to creating effective formats for small-group in-class exercises. Visitors can scroll through the site at their leisure, and for first-time visitors, the columns "The Way to Bet" and "Death By PowerPoint" are a good entry points into this nice collection.

KU Writing Center

<http://www.writing.ku.edu/>

The University of Kansas has a number of fine academic programs, and they also provide writing support for students who might be having trouble getting started with their own assignments or term papers. While visitors may not be able to make the trek on over to Lawrence, they can certainly hop online here to take advantage of some of their writing tutorials and guide sheets. Most visitors will probably want to start at the "Students" section, where they can then click on sections specifically designed for undergraduates or graduate students. Some of these materials have been created specifically by the professionals at KU's Writing Center, including some very helpful guides to crafting an effective thesis statement and working on pre-writing strategies. Also, the "Writing Guides" section includes a sample writing gallery and an assignment planner. For a bit of fun, users can also check out their online photo gallery and also watch their short film, "A Week in the Life of the KU Writing Center"

Higher Education Research Institute

<http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/index.php>

Founded in 1973, the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) is located within UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. Researchers at the HERI are interested in examining leadership development, institutional transformation, faculty performance, and educational equity. First-time visitors should check out the "HERI Surveys & Services" area first, as it contains information about some of their very well-known longitudinal surveys, such as the Freshmen Year Survey and the College Senior Survey. Most visitors with a general interest in higher education trends will want to look through the "Research & Publications" section, as it contains reports on spirituality in higher education, the gender gap in colleges, and the impact of single-gender high schools on students' transition to college. Additionally, at the top of the HERI homepage, visitors can view a set of "quick links" designed for institutional researchers, higher education scholars, and members of the media