

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Civil Society Scholar Awards 2017 -2018

Open Society Scholarship Programs

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MARCH 31, 2017

The **Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA)** support **international academic mobility** to enable doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially-engaged research and critical scholarship in their home country or region.

At the Open Society Foundations we believe in taking on controversial issues and supporting bold, innovative solutions that address root causes and advance systemic change. We also believe in encouraging critical debate and respecting diverse opinions. Universities play a key role in advancing these aims and are a vital part of civil society.

Civil Society Scholars are selected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to research or other engagement with local communities, to furthering debates on challenging societal questions, and to strengthening critical scholarship and academic networks within their fields.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Awards are open to the following academic populations:

- **Doctoral students** of eligible fields studying at accredited universities inside or outside of their home country; or
- **Full-time faculty members** (*must have a **minimum of a master's degree***) teaching at universities in their home country;

Who are **citizens** of: *Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kosovo, Laos, Libya, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, or Yemen.*

Applicants with permanent resident status or dual citizenship in Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, Nordic countries, or USA are **not eligible to apply**.

SUBJECT AREAS:

Any subject areas within the **social sciences and humanities** are eligible, but particularly those related to:

law, justice, and governance; sustainable development and natural resource management; economic rights and empowerment of the poor; public health, social work and community development; new media law and policy; inclusive education; post-conflict studies; and human rights.

The program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Students or faculty currently enrolled in Master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply.

SUPPORTED GRANT ACTIVITIES:

The Awards support **short-term, international academic projects**, such as: *fieldwork (data collection); research visits to libraries, archives or universities; course/curriculum development; and international research collaborations leading to a peer-reviewed publication.*

Requests for support for **first year tuition and fees only** will be considered on the basis of a clearly demonstrated need from doctoral students who have gained admission to universities outside of their home country.

- **Project Duration:** Between 2 - 9 Months
- **Eligible Dates:** September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018
- **Maximum Funding Requests:** Doctoral Students: \$10,000; Faculty Members: \$15,000.

Ineligible fields include: *Business Administration, Management Training, Computer Science, Finance/Banking, Marketing, Engineering, Hard Sciences (Physics, Biology, Chemistry, etc.), Mathematics, Medical Sciences or Teaching English as a foreign language/language instruction.*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the visa requirements of the host country (including the minimum level of funding required) before applying to the program.

Competition for CSSA awards is merit-based. Selection will be made on the basis of proven academic excellence, a clear and justifiable need for international travel to complete the research project and relevance of the project to the development of open society in the applicant's home country. Selected grantees may be invited by CSSA to attend short-term trainings/summer school and a participant conference during the grant period. Travel costs and accommodation for these events will be covered by CSSA.

For more eligibility criteria, please consult the detailed **Guidelines** and **Frequently Asked Questions** documents, available here:

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20170123>

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve this mission, the Foundations seek to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, the Open Society Foundations implement a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, we build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. The Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros established the Open Society Foundations, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. Our activities have grown to encompass the United States and more than 70 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Each Foundation relies on the expertise of boards composed of eminent citizens who determine individual agendas based on local priorities.

The Open Society Scholarship Programs support individuals passionate about improving their knowledge and their ability to advance positive social change in their home countries.

University-based education will empower these individuals to explore and develop intelligent and humane ideas generated by free and open inquiry, critical analysis, and a nuanced understanding of the complex challenges facing open societies.

Through professional degree and international research awards, we help individuals in constrained environments access academic resources more readily available in open societies. We prioritize grants to individuals in countries particularly challenged by repressive governance and constant threats to human rights.

Using transparent, open and merit-based competitions, we offer awards for advanced study in the social sciences and humanities. Awards include enhancements such as preparatory summer programs, regional conferences, and internship opportunities, all designed to strengthen the networks and communities of the open society leaders we seek to build.

The Scholarship Programs collaborate with universities, private donors, and government agencies around the world, as well as with other Open Society programs and affiliated organizations