

Civil Society Scholar Awards 2019–2020

OPEN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Deadline for Applications: March 29, 2019

Program Description

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, to furthering open society values in their home regions, and to strengthening critical scholarship and academic networks within their fields.

What is an “Open Society?”

An Open Society is a society based on the recognition that nobody has a monopoly on the truth, that different people have different views and interests, and that there is a need for institutions to protect the rights of all people to allow them to live together in peace. The term “open society” was popularized by the philosopher Karl Popper in his 1945 book *Open Society and Its Enemies*. Broadly speaking, an open society is characterized by a reliance on the rule of law, the existence of a democratically elected government, a diverse and vigorous civil society, and a respect for minorities and minority opinions.

Who Can Apply?

The Awards are open to the following academic populations:

- PhD students of eligible fields studying at universities inside or outside of their home country; or
- Full-time faculty members (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 and 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.

PhD students, including those teaching at their home or other universities, must apply as doctoral students. Applicants applying as full-time faculty members must have a minimum of

a Master's degree, be teaching at their home institutions, and cannot be enrolled in a doctoral program. Students or faculty currently enrolled in Master's degree programs are NOT eligible to apply.

Current or former grantees who have been awarded a CSSA grant once may apply for a new grant but must delineate how their proposed project is a continuation of / is closely related to their original project. Current grantees applying for the award for the second time must also confirm that they are on schedule with their current grant's work timeline. **CSSA grant cannot be awarded to the same person more than twice.**

The program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, pregnancy and maternity or marriage and/or civil partnership.

For more eligibility criteria, please consult the **Frequently Asked Questions** document, [available here](#).

Eligible Subject Areas

Any subject areas within the social sciences and humanities are eligible, 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.

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.

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. We can only accept one application with one research project per person each year. Please note that we no longer consider requests for tuition fees support.

- Project Duration: Between 2 - 12 months.
- Project Location: all research activities must take place outside of the country of the applicant's current residence.

- For legal reasons, we are currently unable to fund projects taking place in **Russia** or **Azerbaijan**. Proposals that have Russia or Azerbaijan indicated as one of the selected international research locations will be rejected as ineligible.
- Proposals that have the **United States** indicated as one of the international research locations must meet the following criteria:
 - Start date of February 1, 2020 or later;
 - Minimum project length of 3 months;
 - An official invitation from the host institution must be attached to the application at the time of submission, along with a confirmation that the host institution is on the list of Designated Sponsor Organizations for J1 visa.
 - J1 visa will need to be obtained by all finalists travelling to the United States for their CSSA-funded research projects. B1/B2 visas cannot be used for this purpose.
- **Eligible Dates:** September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020. If the proposed research project does not start and end within this period it is ineligible. Projects taking place in the United States can only be funded if they start on or after February 1, 2020.
- Maximum Funding Requests: \$15,000.

Applicants may NOT request grant assistance for the support of:

- federal and/or state taxes;
- computer hardware, software or other computer-related equipment;
- automobile-related expenses (except fuel costs during fieldwork);
- tuition/academic fees;
- conference attendance which is not part of a larger research project;
- applications from more than one individual;
- honorarium payments to the applicant; or
- honoraria or other payments made to third parties, such as hired researchers. In exceptional cases a small percentage of the award, not exceeding 15%, may be considered for this purpose.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to enquire with host institutions to investigate the minimum levels of funding required for visa issuance 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 to attend a participant conference during the grant period. Travel costs and accommodation for this event will be covered by CSSA.

Supporting Documentation

The following documents are required from all applicants. Please note that requirements for faculty applicants and doctoral student applicants differ.

All Applicants:

1. Completed Application Form (online or hard copy);
2. Up to date CV;
3. A detailed budget and timeline of your research project or first year of doctoral studies curricula, with a clear explanation of when and how you will use the requested funds (please use the template provided);
4. Copy of the identification pages of your passport(s) and any current visas;
5. Scan of current official graduate school transcript (doctoral applicants) or the final transcript of highest degree obtained (for faculty applicants and PhD student applicants in their first year of study); and
6. **A letter of invitation** from a faculty member or a senior administrator at the institution where your research will take place, if applicable (*scanned and attached to application*).

Doctoral student applicants must also provide:

- **An official letter from your academic institution** confirming your enrollment status, department, and expected completion date (scanned and attached to application);
- **A personal reference letter from an academic or professional in your field in your home country** who can speak to your accomplishments, future aspirations, and ties to your home country (scanned and attached to application);
- **An academic reference letter** from your academic supervisor supporting the research for which you seek funding. Supervisors should also confirm if the activity will need IRB/ethics committee approval prior to the activity taking place (scanned and attached to application).

Faculty applicants must also provide:

- **An official letter from your institution of employment** confirming your status as a faculty member and endorsing the proposed time away from your position (scanned and attached to application);
- **An academic reference letter** from a senior colleague in your field with direct knowledge of your work and your proposed research topic (*scanned and attached to application*).

Note: Omission of one or more of the documents renders your application incomplete and will result in disqualification. For more information, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions document**, [available here](#).

All reference letters MUST include full name, email address, and contact number of the person giving the reference.

How to Apply

Deadline for Applications: March 29, 2019

Interested applicants must complete and submit a CSSA application. **Online applications are strongly encouraged.**

Online Application

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. To apply online, please click on [this link](#) to register, and then follow instructions.

Paper Application

Printable version of the application form may be accessed via [this link](#) or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see below).

Please submit only one application either online OR on paper by **March 29, 2019**.

Late applications will automatically be disqualified.

Paper applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by **March 29, 2019** and sent to either the New York or London address listed below, OR submitted to one of the local partner offices listed below.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email by the end of June 2019.

New York and London Offices

Open Society Foundations
Open Society Scholarship Programs
224 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
USA
Email: cssa@infoscholar.org

Open Society Foundation–London
Open Society Scholarship Programs
Millbank Tower, 7th Floor
21-24 Millbank, London
SW1P 4QP, UK
Email: cssa@infoscholar.org

Local Partner Offices

Afghanistan

Please contact cssa@infoscholar.org

Albania

Open Society Foundation for Albania
Rr. Qemal Stafa, P.120/2

Tirana, Albania

Tel: +355-42-234-621

www.soros.al/

Contact: Brunilda Bakshevani, OSFA
Scholarship Coordinator

Email: brunilda.bakshevani@osfa.al

Azerbaijan

Baku Education Information Center
40 J. Jabbarli Street, Caspian Business
Center

Baku AZ1065

Tel/Fax: (994 12) 4482845/46

Contact: Bahar Haji-zada

Email: bhaji-zada@beic.az

Belarus

American Councils for Int'l. Education
Pilies g. 16-9

Vilnius, Lithuania LT-01403

Tel.: +370688 58011 (LT), +35 29 669

9077 (BY)

Contact: Kevin Reiling, Regional Director

Email: reiling@americancouncils.eu

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Please contact cssa@infoscholar.org

Burma/Myanmar:

Thabyay Education Foundation

Kant Kaw Education Centre

605A SanYeik Nyein 6th Street

Kamayut Township

Yangon Myanmar

Tel: +95 (1) 502 884

Contact: Saw Myo Min Thu, Executive
Director

Email: executivedirector@thabyay.org

Haiti

Foundation Connaissance et Liberte
143, Avenue Christophe, B.P. 2720

Port-au-Prince Haiti

Tel: 509-2813-1694

www.fokal.org

Email: info@fokal.org

Contact: Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

Kosovo

Kosovar Civil Society Foundation

Musa Tolaj, Qendra Nartel, Lam A, H1,
Kat.12, nr. 65-1, Lakrishtë

Prishtinë, Kosovë

Tel: +383 (0)38 600 633

www.kcsfoundation.org

office@kcsfoundation.org

Contact: Fidan Hallaqi, Development
Director

Email: fidan.hallaqi@kcsfoundation.org

Macedonia

Youth Educational Forum

Drenak 34A 1000 Skopje Macedonia

Tel: +389 2 3139 692

www.mof.mk/

info@mof.org.mk

Contact: Bojana Nizamovska, Program
Director

Email: bojana_nizamovska@mof.org.mk

Moldova

Centrul de Informatii Universitare
Str. Puskin, 16 MD 2012 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova
Tel: +373 22 221172
eac@eac.md
www.eac.md/
Contact: Angela Muset, Director
Email: amuset@eac.md

Mongolia

Education Advising and Resource Center
Sukhbaatar district 8th khoroo, Student's
Street, MKM-24th bld, 1st floor
Ulaanbaatar, 210648 Mongolia
Tel: +976 11 319016
www.earcmn.org
Contact: Sayamaa Dangaasuren, Executive
Director
Email: sayamaa@earcmn.org

Nepal

Alliance for Social Dialogue
345 Ramchandra Marg, Battisputali
Kathmandu Nepal
Tel: +977-1-4472807
Email: asd@asd.org.np

Serbia

Belgrade Open School
Masarikova Street, 5/16 11000
Belgrade Serbia
Tel: +381 11 30 61 577, +381 11 30 65
800
www.bos.rs/en/
Contact: Ana Stevanovic, Project
Coordinator
Tel: +381 63 605 504
Email: ana.stevanovic@bos.rs

Tajikistan

Open Society Institute Assistance
Foundation
37/1 Bokhtar Street, Vefa Business
Center, 4th Floor
734 002 Dushanbe Tajikistan
Tel: +992-372-441-0728
osiaf@osiaf.tj
soros.tj/
Contact: Nazarkhudo Dastambuev,
Director of Programs
Tel: (+992) 900640044
Email: nazarkhudo.dastambuev@osiaf.tj

Turkmenistan

Public Foundation Educational Center
Bilim–Central Asia
Shevchenko 44 a, apt.1
050000 Almaty, Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 727 261 25 55
info@bilim.kz
www.bilim.kz
Contact: Larissa Gorbunova, Executive
Director
Tel: +7 727 2597620 (22)
Email: lgorbunova@bilim.kz

Uzbekistan

Public Foundation Educational Center
Bilim–Central Asia
Shevchenko 44 a, apt.1
050000 Almaty Kazakhstan
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Email: lgorbunova@bilim.kz