



Council of American Overseas Research Centers

Fostering International Scholarship

### **CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions**

**I am a US citizen living abroad, and I am an independent scholar. Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, if you meet the other eligibility criteria such as holding a PhD or terminal degree and having a project that falls under the humanities or uses humanistic methods.

**Some of the Overseas Research Centers (ORCs) have a regional focus, such as the West African Research Association (WARA) and the Americas Research Network (ARENET). Which country do I need to carry out research in to comply with the requirement that applicants must be affiliated with an Overseas Research Center?**

For the Americas Research Network, you will need to carry out your research in Mexico and for the West African Research Association, you will need to carry out your research in Senegal.

**I recently participated in an Overseas Faculty Development Seminar (through CAORC); do I need to wait three years to apply for the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship?**

No, the three-year waiting requirement only applies to applicants who have previously held a CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship or a CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellowship.

**My project involves the creation of art. Is this eligible for funding?**

Funding is not available for the creation or performance of art, creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, or creative nonfiction under this fellowship.

**How do I affiliate with an Overseas Research Center?**

The affiliation process can differ depending on the center, so it is advisable to check the center's website or get in touch with them directly for more information. Note that you do not need to be affiliated with a center during the application process. You will only need to obtain affiliation if you are awarded the fellowship.

**Do the fellowship funds go through my institution?**

No, the fellowship funds are paid directly to the individual in the form of stipend payments.

**Do I need to submit a budget with my application?**

No, a budget is not necessary, but CAORC encourages applicants to keep costs in mind when developing the proposed travel plan.

**How can I contribute to an Overseas Research Center while on the fellowship?**

This varies by center in terms of what sort of engagement is possible and by your individual interests, but examples from former fellows include hosting a workshop for local scholars, giving a lecture at the center, joining a reading group, creating open access digital resources, mentoring junior scholars, and collaborating on projects of mutual interest to name a few.

**Can I include photos or graphs in my application and if so, where should I include them?**

Yes, images are permissible, and they can be inserted into the proposal narrative document.

**Can you advise how to approach the literature review/bibliography?**

The literature review/bibliography is a place to list publications and sources that you intend to draw on during your fellowship project. It's mostly aiming at resources you will access while on the fellowship. The style and format are flexible.

**If awarded, can I split up the fellowship travel and take multiple trips?**

No, you need to complete the entire fellowship in one trip so the research must be continuous for the duration of the fellowship and take place in one country with a participating Overseas Research Center. Note that this differs from the CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellowship in which a fellow can take multiple trips and to different countries.

**What happens if I am awarded another federally funded grant?**

You will need to carry out the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship in its entirety either before or after the other grant since the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship is federally funded. The grants can be carried out consecutively but not simultaneously.

**What happens if I am awarded another grant that is not federally funded?**

In this case you can potentially carry out both grants simultaneously and use the funds to supplement your CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship (if this is also permissible in terms of the other funding organization).

**I applied to the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?**

No, CAORC encourages previous applicants to continue revising and developing their proposal and to reapply.

**How are applications reviewed?**

The CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship has a multi-stage peer review process, which involves numerous academics around the country and abroad and of different disciplinary backgrounds within the humanities. The reviewers assess the application based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the applicant's field of research
- Contribution to the humanities
- Feasibility of the research design
- Applicant's qualifications in terms of having the requisite experience and skills to complete the project
- Rationale for carrying out the project in the proposed host country and affiliating with the ORC / Contribution to the intellectual scope of the ORC