

Class of 2021 National Fellows Program Application Instructions

How to Apply:

To be considered for the 2021 Fellows Class, which runs from September 2020 to August 2021, you must submit your application by **Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 11:59 pm EST.**

Please keep in mind that due to the volume of applications we receive, under no circumstances can we extend the deadline, take individual calls to answer questions about the program and/or the application process, or provide candidates with direct feedback either on a project idea or on the components of an application.

That said, in addition to these instructions, we are certain that you can find enough information on our website to guide you as you prepare your application. Reading through our [FAQ](#) as well as the bios/project summaries for those Fellows in our [current class](#) may be a great starting point.

Please read the instructions before you begin your application. Your application will automatically save, so you can come back to the form at any time before the deadline.

Components of Your Application:

When you begin your application, you will be prompted to enter basic contact and background information. You will then be asked to upload the seven central components of your application as follows:

1. **A 1-3 sentence description of your New America Fellowship proposal.** An elevator pitch, if you will.
2. **Statement of Interest:**
The core of the application in which you explain your proposal for the fellowship—your line of inquiry, how you plan to develop it, why you feel this project will enrich an important public debate, and how you could contribute to and benefit from a fellowship from New America.

This statement **should not exceed 2,000 words.**

3. **Plan of Approach:**
Your plan of approach should explain how the project proposal (above) will be executed during the fellowship including your plan for dissemination once the project is complete. To be clear, projects do not need to be completed within the fellowship year, but the plan of approach for the year should be articulated.

This statement **should not exceed 500 words.**

4. **Policy Implications:**
A brief statement that explains the policy implications of your stated project. Avoid duplicating portions of your statement of interest above by focusing on the impact you hope your project will have.

If your project is primarily journalistic, analytic, or historical in nature, how, specifically, do you believe its lessons might change policy going forward? If your project is built around a policy proposal, how do you anticipate shepherding it from an idea to an implemented reality? If your project overlaps with policy programs at New America, use this statement to discuss that area of overlap: in what way would your project add to New America's existing policy work in your area?

This statement **should not exceed 500 words**.

5. **Resume:**

Your professional resume or biography.

Not to exceed 5 pages.

6. **Cover Page:**

As you select your three work samples, please prepare a cover page for both your written and non-written work samples using the editable .docx template attached to the [Class of 2021 application homepage](#).

The cover page should list your full name, as well as the title, date of publication/release (in the case of video/audio), and a brief description of each of the work samples that you plan to submit.

The cover page **does not count** toward your 40-page writing sample limit, but it **must** be the first page of your work sample PDF packet.

For those submitting non-written work samples, you will have the ability to upload your cover page separately from your video/audio files. You will be prompted to upload the cover page once you select "yes" to submitting non-written work samples.

7. **Written or Non-written Work Samples:**

(please read these instructions carefully before preparing your work samples)

Instructions for submitting written work samples **only**:

- You can choose to submit a total of **up to three work samples (combined into one PDF file packet)**.
- Written samples should **not exceed 40 pages** in total (41 with the cover page).

Instructions for submitting non-written work samples **only**:

- Based on the type of project you are proposing, we will accept **up to three non-written work samples** (film and/or audio clips).
- Non-written work samples (film and/or audio clips) **should not exceed a half-hour of total video or audio content**.
- We recognize that our file size upload limit can reduce the quality of film and audio files, so if it is easier to submit a link of your work sample (with or without a password), you can include that with your cover page. You do not need to upload your files if you choose to include links on your cover page.

Instructions for submitting a **combination** of written & non-written work samples:

- You may submit a combination of written and non-written work samples, **but you may only submit a total of three work samples.**
- Please use your best judgment when dividing your three samples between the two types of work. For example, if you will be submitting two writing samples and one video clip, the writing sample page count should not exceed 27 pages, or if you'll be submitting one writing sample along with two video clips, the writing sample page count should not exceed 14 pages.
- **All video and audio clips must be your original work; the aim is to convey a sense of your capabilities and aesthetic.** For instance, **TED talks will not count** as an original non-written work sample and should not be submitted as a work sample in support of your application.
- In line with the written and non-written work sample instructions above, please list all three work samples on the same cover page. Please then submit the cover page as the top page of your written work sample file. You can choose to upload your video and/or audio file, or include a link to the work in your cover page.

8. Three Professional References:

Lastly, we do not ask for letters of recommendation at this time, however, we do ask that you provide the contact information of three professional references that we can contact if you make it to the final stage of the selection process.

Your references should be people with whom you have worked closely. They should not be family, friends or spouses.

When you finish the required sections and submit your application, you will be taken to a confirmation page which states that you have successfully submitted your materials. You will also receive a similar confirmation email at the address that you provided.

Please note that all submissions are final and you will not be given permission to edit your application once submitted.

Questions:

If you have questions about the program or the application process, please visit our [FAQ page](#) as your first source of support.

You can find out more about the Fellows Program by [exploring our website](#), and you can learn more about the types of projects we've supported over the years by reviewing the bios and project summaries of our [2020 Class of New America National Fellows](#) as well as of our [alumni](#).

Thank you again for your interest in the New America Fellows Program, and best of luck with the application process!

Learn more at www.newamerica.org/fellows