



## GUIDELINES

# Civil Society Scholar Awards 2015-2016

## Open Society Scholarship Programs

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MARCH 2, 2015**

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;
- **Full-time faculty members**<sup>1</sup> 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, Yemen.*

For more eligibility criteria, please consult the **Frequently Asked Questions** document, available here: [www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20141212](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20141212)

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<sup>1</sup> Faculty must have at least a master's degree 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.

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

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** 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 - 10 Months
- **Eligible Dates:** August 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016
- **Maximum Funding Requests:** Doctoral Students: \$10,000; Faculty Members: \$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;
- tuition/academic fees if the activity is not for the first year of a doctoral program;
- conference attendance which is not part of a larger research project;
- applications from more than 1 individual.

**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 must not have been awarded, or will expect to continue, another OSF grant during the 2015-16 academic year.

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.

## THIS FORM IS FREE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

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.

### **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. Copy of the identification pages of your passport(s)/any visas you hold for the country in which you studying;
3. Scan of current official graduate school transcript (doctoral applicants) or the final transcript of highest degree obtained (faculty applicants);
4. A **letter of invitation** from a faculty member or senior administrator at the institution where your research will take place, if applicable (*scanned and attached to application*).

#### **Doctoral Student Applicants Must Also Provide:**

1. **An official letter from your institution** confirming your enrollment status, department, and expected completion date (*scanned and attached to application*);
2. **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 or submitted in original hard copy or by e-mail*);
3. **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. (Submitted online directly by the recommender or in original hard copy or by e-mail.)

*For first-year doctoral students who have not started their programs, an academic reference letter from your previous professor/supervisor will suffice.*

#### **Faculty Applicants:**

1. **An official letter from your institution of employment** endorsing the proposed time away from your position (*scanned and attached to application*);
2. **An academic reference letter** from a senior colleague in your field with direct knowledge of your work and your proposed research topic (submitted online directly by the recommender *or in original hard copy or by e-mail*).

**NOTE:** *Omission of one or more of the documents renders your application incomplete and will result in disqualification. In the event that a document(s) will become available only after you submit your application, please indicate this on your application and send the missing document(s) as soon as possible.*

**HOW TO APPLY:**

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 go to <https://scholarshipprograms.submittable.com/submit/1e1a720e-9e30-480f-9dea-16788519a989> to register, and then follow instructions.

▪ **PAPER APPLICATION**

Paper applications may be accessed via the following link or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see below): [www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20141212](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards-20141212)

Please submit only one application either online OR on paper by **March 2, 2015**.

Paper applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by **March 2, 2015** and sent to either the New York or London address listed below, OR submitted to a local Educational Advising Center listed below.

**Late applications will automatically be disqualified.**

**Open Society Foundations**

Open Society Scholarship Programs  
224 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY  
10019, USA  
Email: [cssa@infoscholar.org](mailto:cssa@infoscholar.org)

**Open Society Foundation - London**

Open Society Scholarship Programs  
Millbank Tower, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
21-24 Millbank, London  
SW1P 4QP, UK  
Email: [cssa@infoscholar.org](mailto:cssa@infoscholar.org)

**LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTERS**

**Afghanistan**

Afghanistan OSIA  
Shahre Naw, Butcher Street, First Left Lane, House  
No 53 Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel: +93 (0) 778 816 380  
Contact:  
Mohammad Yusuf Yahyapoor: [yusufm@osafg.org](mailto:yusufm@osafg.org)

**Azerbaijan**

[Baku Education Information Center](#)  
40 J. Jabbarli Street, Caspian Business Center  
Baku AZ1065  
Tel/Fax: (994 12) 4482845/46  
Contact:  
Bahar Haji-zada: [bhaji-zada@beic.az](mailto:bhaji-zada@beic.az)

**Albania**

[Open Society Foundation for Albania](#)  
Rr. "Qemal Stafa", Pall.120/2,  
Tirana, Albania  
Tel. +355 4 2234621; 2234223  
Fax +355 4 2235855  
Contact:  
Brunilda Bakshevani: [ibakshevani@osfa.soros.al](mailto:ibakshevani@osfa.soros.al)

**Belarus**

American Councils for International Education:  
ACTR/ACCELS  
Kevin Reiling: [advising@ehu.lt](mailto:advising@ehu.lt)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

[SRCe](#)

- Student Resource Center

Univerzitetski kampus  
Zmaja od Bosne BB  
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel. (387 33) 206 048  
Fax (387 33) 212 032  
Contact:  
Muhamed Serdarevic: [muhamed@srce.ba](mailto:muhamed@srce.ba)

**Burma/Myanmar:**

Thabyay Education Foundation  
605A San Yeik Nyein 6th Street  
Kamayut Townhip  
Yangon, Myanmar  
T: (95) 1502 884 ext. 206 (Scholarships office)  
Contact: [sssmyanmar@gmail.com](mailto:sssmyanmar@gmail.com)

**Haiti**

FOKAL  
143, Avenue Christophe  
B.P. 2720, Port-au-Prince, Haïti  
Contact: David Bruchon  
Email: [dbruchon@fokal.org](mailto:dbruchon@fokal.org)

**Kosovo**

[Kosovar Civil Society Foundation](#)  
Fazli Grajqevci str.4/a 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo  
Phone: ++ 381 38 248 636; ++381 38 248 643  
Contact: Ms. Mimika Loshi:  
[mimika.loshi@kcsfoundation.org](mailto:mimika.loshi@kcsfoundation.org)

**Macedonia**

American Educational Center— Youth Educational  
Forum, Library "Brakja Miladinovci"  
Partizanski odredi 22  
Skopje 1000  
Tel: +389 2 3112 464  
Fax: +389 2 3224 981  
Contact:  
Bojana Nizamovska: [bomzich@gmail.com](mailto:bomzich@gmail.com)

**Moldova**

[Educational Advising Center](#)  
str. Puskin, 16, Chisinau, MD 2012  
Tel/Fax: (373 22)221167, (373 22)221172  
Email: [eac@eac.md](mailto:eac@eac.md)  
Contact:  
Angela Muset: [amuset@eac.md](mailto:amuset@eac.md)

**Mongolia**

[Educational Advising Center](#)

Sukhbaatar District, Khoroo 8, Khoroolol 11,  
Students Street, MKM Building 24, 1st Floor  
Ulaanbaatar 210648, Mongolia  
Tel: (976 11) 31 90 16  
Fax: (976 11) 32 69 41  
Contact:  
Aruinaa Enkhtur: [ariunaa@earcmn.org](mailto:ariunaa@earcmn.org)

**Nepal**

Alliance for Social Dialogue  
GPO Box 25334  
Ramchandra Marg, Battisputali  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: +977-1-4472807  
Contact:  
Sristhi Adhikari: [scholarship@asd.org.np](mailto:scholarship@asd.org.np);  
[sadhikari@asd.org.np](mailto:sadhikari@asd.org.np)

**Serbia**

[Belgrade Open School](#)  
Masarikova 5/XVI  
Belgrade, 11000, Serbia  
Tel. (381 11) 3061 371  
Fax (381 11) 3613 112  
Contact:  
Ana Stevanovic: [ana.stevanovic@bos.rs](mailto:ana.stevanovic@bos.rs)

**Tajikistan**

[Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–  
Tajikistan](#)  
Trade and Business Center "VEFA"  
37/1 Bokhtar street, 4th floor, room #404  
734002, Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Tel: (+992 47) 441-07-45  
Fax: (+992 47) 441-07-29  
Contact:  
Gulnora Choukourbekova: [gulnora@osi.tajik.net](mailto:gulnora@osi.tajik.net)

**Uzbekistan**

Educational Center: "[Bilim–Central Asia](#)"  
25, Gani Ilyayev Str., Shymkent  
160012, Kazakhstan  
Tel./Fax (7252) 211981  
Contacts:  
Larissa Gurbunova: [lgorbunova@bilim.kz](mailto:lgorbunova@bilim.kz)  
Arman Turdaliyev: [aturdaliyev@gmail.com](mailto:aturdaliyev@gmail.com)

**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.