

# Graduate Student Fellowships at the NDIAS



The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (NDIAS) is dedicated to fostering and supporting integrative scholarship addressing ultimate questions at the intersection of the arts, engineering, humanities, law, and natural, physical, and social sciences, especially those which transcend disciplinary boundaries.

The NDIAS encourages graduate student applicants to include questions of values in their analyses, to integrate diverse disciplines, and to ask how their findings advance

civilization. The Institute offers its fellows the opportunity to engage not only in analysis but also in evaluating what should be done, to analyze the world in substantive and collaborative ways, and to think through the implications of present behavior for the future of the world.

## [Instructions for Graduate Student Fellowship Application](#)

### [Graduate Student Fellowship Online Application](#)

As a collaborative academic community, the Institute cultivates the contemplative ideal that is an essential factor in the Catholic intellectual tradition and vital for the progression of scholarship. The greatest advances do not occur in solitude, but in the company of others who share a passion for advancement and are open to dialogue and collaboration.

## **Research Support**

The NDIAS offers fellowships to advanced graduate students for a full academic year (fall and spring semesters, August through May). The Institute also encourages graduate students to address ultimate questions and questions of value while a member of the Institute's academic community.

Graduate fellowships range up to a maximum of \$25,000 (gross amount) and include a \$1,000 research account, office facilities in the Institute, a computer and printer, access to University libraries and other facilities, and twice-weekly Institute seminars and other events.

## Eligibility



The Institute welcomes applications from graduate students in all disciplines, including the arts, engineering, the humanities, law, and the social and physical sciences with projects that are creative, innovative, or align with the intellectual orientation of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. Graduate students from all institutions are invited to apply.

The Institute seeks applicants with:

- excellent records of scholarly, artistic, or research accomplishment in their field(s);
- projects that touch on normative, integrative, or ultimate questions, especially as they engage the Catholic intellectual tradition;
- projects characterized by clarity of thought, coherence, and impact;
- the ability to interact with other fellows and to engage in collegial discussions of research presentations; and
- a willingness to contribute to a cooperative community of scholars.

One goal of the fellowship selection process is the creation of a diverse and collaborative community of scholars. Applicants who are members of traditionally under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. There are no citizenship requirements for fellowships; non-U.S. nationals are welcome to apply.

## Fellowship Expectations

The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study is a residential institute that values collegial interaction and a vibrant intellectual exchange on major issues and questions of value. The greatest advances do not occur in solitude, but in the company of others who share a passion for advancement and are open to dialogue and collaboration.

Fellows are expected to be free of their regular commitments and to have their primary office at the Institute so they may devote themselves full time to the work outlined in their proposal and participate fully in the engaging and cooperative community of scholars at the Institute.

All NDIAS Fellows are expected to reside in the South Bend area and to remain in residence at the University of Notre Dame during the period of their fellowship (except for vacation periods, holidays, and University breaks). To facilitate their creativity and productivity, Fellows attend twice-weekly seminars and other events hosted by the Institute, present their research twice each

semester at the Institute's weekly seminars, and engage the University community intellectually in a distinctive and appropriate manner.

While in residence, NDIAS Fellows are invited to actively participate in the intellectual and cultural community at Notre Dame. Additionally, there are many opportunities to engage with colleagues and scholars from the University of Notre Dame, from universities in Chicago and nearby, and with guest speakers through the Institute's additional events.

Fellows are asked to continue the tradition of participating in NDIAS sponsored events including colloquia, conferences, and symposia.

## **Evaluation of Applications**

Fellowship applications are evaluated with great care and at several levels of review to ensure objectivity and consistency.

Fellowship applications are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- the academic strength of the proposal;
- the clarity and compelling nature of relevant methodologies and project organization and objectives, as explained in the proposal;
- the applicant's ability to address major questions, meta issues, and questions of value;
- the potential for producing significant research;
- how the proposed research aligns with the intellectual parameters of the Institute;
- the applicant's ability to contribute to a cooperative community of interdisciplinary scholars, as explained in their letters of reference; and
- the significance of the research proposed by each applicant vis-à-vis other proposals submitted.

Because of the numerous criteria involved in selecting fellows, application files are reviewed and evaluated by leading scholars in the respective disciplines and fields, serving as external reviewers. The final major review, conducted by the Institute's Selection Committee (which is made up of an interdisciplinary group of scholars), consists of a thorough review of applications as well as the evaluation of internal and external reviewers. This committee is charged with making final recommendations on the selection of NDIAS Fellows.

# Graduate Student Fellowship Application Instructions

The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (NDIAS) is dedicated to fostering and supporting integrative scholarship addressing ultimate questions at the intersection of the arts, engineering, humanities, law, and natural, physical, and social sciences, especially those that transcend disciplinary boundaries. **All 2015-2016 NDIAS Fellowship applications, including letters of reference and supporting documentation, must be received at the NDIAS by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, October 15, 2015.**

## Instructions to Complete Your [NDIAS Graduate Student Fellowship Online Application](#)

1. We have designed this web-based application to be secure and convenient. If you have any questions as you complete your application, please contact Carolyn Sherman, Events and Fellowships Program Manager, at [csherman@nd.edu](mailto:csherman@nd.edu).
2. Before proceeding, we recommend that you review the fellowship descriptions, eligibility requirements, and expectations found on the [Graduate Student Fellowships](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) pages on the [NDIAS website](#).
3. Your application will be downloaded for external reviewers and the Fellowship Selection Committee exactly as you type it into the system. Therefore, please complete your online application carefully, with appropriate attention to spelling, case (please do not type using all capital letters), punctuation, and grammar.
4. Please use the "Previous" and "Next" buttons as you navigate through the application (do not use the "Back" function of your browser). This is the safest way to preserve your work as you complete the application. Please save your work before proceeding to the next page or before exiting the system.
5. You must save your work before exiting the application. The "Save Application" button is at the bottom of each application page. If you do not click "Save Application," anything entered since your last save on that screen will be lost. You will be automatically logged out of the application when you close your browser window.
6. You may return to any of these pages by logging in on the application portal page.
7. Once your application is submitted for review, it will no longer be possible to change it. If you have changes to your application after its submittal, please notify the NDIAS Fellowship program at [csherman@nd.edu](mailto:csherman@nd.edu).

8. The NDIAS Fellowship application must be submitted in English using Times New Roman 12-point font (or its equivalent). The application is comprised of the following:

- (a) completed online application form;
- (b) current curriculum vitae (no more than four pages);
- (c) proposal abstract (no more than 400 words);
- (d) fellowship research proposal (no more than six pages, double-spaced);
- (e) proposal bibliography (no more than two pages, single-spaced);
- (f) (optional) up to two pages of non-text materials supporting the research proposal;
- (g) (optional) cover letter; and
- (h) three letters of reference (please see note on professional reference letters below).

**9. Fellowship applications for 2016-2017, including letters of reference and all supporting documentation, must be received at the NDIAS by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Thursday, October 15, 2015.**

### [NDIAS Graduate Student Fellowship Online Application](#)

#### **Note on Professional Reference Letters**

**SUBMISSION** of your completed application (i.e., you have entered all the required information, attached all the required documents, and selected the “Submit” button) will **trigger a message** to each referee asking for a letter of reference to be submitted on your behalf. Please do not let your application remain “incomplete;” even if you have entered your referees' email addresses and saved your application, notification to each referee will occur only after you have completed all sections of your application and successfully selected “Submit.”

If you need additional time to complete and attach application documents, yet wish to notify your referees in advance in order to provide them with ample time for the preparation of your letters, please email your referees before you complete your application. Please provide your referees with the email address you will use in your application (they will need this information to submit their reference for you) and send them the following link (<http://fs16.formsite.com/NDIAS/form35/index.html>) to upload their letters of reference. Referees will receive an automatic request for a letter of reference once a completed application is submitted. Referees who submit letters before applicants submit their final applications, though, may ignore this request.

### [NDIAS Graduate Student Fellowship Online Application](#)

#### **Additional Instructions for Submitting Your NDIAS Fellowship Research Proposal**

Fellowship research proposals should be in English, in Times New Roman 12-point font (or its equivalent), no longer than six pages (double-spaced), and formatted in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf).

In the research proposal, applicants should provide a thorough explanation of their research proposal and its significance. Applicants must also address the following:

(1) how the proposed research aligns with the intellectual parameters, mission, and goals of the Institute (please see [ndias.nd.edu/about-us](http://ndias.nd.edu/about-us));

(2) preliminary objectives for the research to be conducted [This section should include an overview of the project, intended results (such as whether the research might result in a book, refereed journal article, art work, etc.), and the expected audience.]; and

(3) the proposed work plan (including what research or work has already been accomplished, what will be done during the fellowship period, the methodology to be employed, and the organization of the scholarly project, book, or other work expected from research conducted during the fellowship).

N.B.: Because the selection committee and external reviewers are scholars from a wide range of disciplines, applicants should ensure that the significance and originality of their project and explanations of relevant methodologies and project objectives are stated clearly for specialists outside of the applicant's field.

Applicants will be notified when their applications have been received. Announcement of fellowship awards will be made in spring 2016.

Thank you for your fellowship application. We look forward to reviewing your proposal and other documents.

**[NDIAS Graduate Student Fellowship Online Application](#)**

**Please note that all application materials, including letters of reference, must be received by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, October 15, 2015.**