PROGRAM GUIDELINES

**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.



Open Society Foundations

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New York, New York, 10019

P. +1 212-548-0600

**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

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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.](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards)

**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.](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards)

**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 go to click on [this link to register, and then follow instructions.](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards)

**Paper Application**

Printable version of the application form may be accessed via [this link or by contacting one of](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-scholar-awards) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:reiling@americancouncils.eu)

**Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Please contact [cssa@infoscholar.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fokal.org/)

Email: [info@fokal.org](mailto:info@fokal.org)

**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](http://www.kcsfoundation.org/) [office@kcsfoundation.org](mailto:office@kcsfoundation.org)

Contact: Fidan Hallaqi, Development

Director

Email: [fidan.hallaqi@kcsfoundation.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@mof.org.mk)

Contact: Bojana Nizamovska, Program

Director

Email: [bojana\_nizamovska@mof.org.mk](mailto: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](mailto:eac@eac.md) www.eac.md/

Contact: Angela Muset, Director

Email: [amuset@eac.md](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.bos.rs/en/)

Contact: Ana Stevanovic, Project

Coordinator

Tel: +381 63 605 504

Email: [ana.stevanovic@bos.rs](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@bilim.kz)

[www.bilim.kz](http://www.bilim.kz/)

Contact: Larissa Gorbunova, Executive

Director

Tel: +7 727 2597620 (22) Email: lgorbunova@bilim.kz

**Uzebikstan**

Public Foundation Educational Center

Bilim–Central Asia

Shevchenko 44 a, apt.1

050000 Almaty Kazakhstan Tel: +7 727 261 25 55 [info@bilim.kz](mailto:info@bilim.kz) [www.bilim.kz](http://www.bilim.kz/)

Contact: Larissa Gorbunova, Executive

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