
What is the NEH Teacher-Scholar Program?

As part of its effort to improve the content and quality of humanities education in the nation's schools, the National Endowment for the Humanities offers elementary and secondary school teachers an opportunity to receive support for an academic year of full-time independent study in history, literature, foreign languages, and other disciplines of the humanities.

The Teacher-Scholar Program is governed by the conviction that students benefit most when teachers have a mastery of their disciplines and are themselves actively engaged in learning. The program is designed to give recipients an opportunity to spend a year increasing their understanding of texts, topics, and issues bearing on the subjects they teach.

Recipients of the award are selected in a single, nationwide competition. An award is intended to fully replace the recipient's academic-year salary or to supplement other grants and sabbatical pay up to the amount of the academic-year salary. The stipend may not exceed \$30,000. Each Teacher-Scholar award offers a \$500 honorarium for a mentor should the recipient elect to work with an expert in the field of his or her study.

Intellectual Focus

The Teacher-Scholar Program focuses on rigorous academic study, with particular emphasis on the examination of significant issues and important primary and secondary works central to one or more of the humanities disciplines. A

recipient may establish a working relationship with nearby scholars, academic libraries, archives, or museums. A recipient may enroll in up to two college courses or other educational programs during the tenure of the award, provided such course work is directly relevant to the proposed project. Or, a recipient may work alone in his or her own setting. In any case, the focus of the year's activity should be intensive study on a well-defined topic in the humanities.

The National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency established in 1965 to support research, education, and public projects in the humanities.

The Endowment funds work in the humanities through programs administered by five divisions—Education Programs, Fellowships and Seminars, Public Programs, Research Programs, and State Programs—and two offices, Challenge Grants and Preservation.

In the act establishing the Endowment, the term humanities includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following disciplines: history; philosophy; languages; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

Any project in the humanities is eligible for support under the Teacher-Scholar Program.

The Endowment does not support projects in the creative or performing arts, however, or projects that are concerned primarily with educational theory, educational research, educational psychology, school management, child development, counseling, or the acquisition of basic skills.

Conditions of Eligibility

Teachers may apply for a teacher-scholar award if they

1. are employed full-time in elementary, middle, or secondary schools and have teaching responsibilities primarily in one or more of the humanities disciplines—librarians may apply if they spend more than 50 percent of their time directly teaching humanities courses;
2. have completed at least three years of full-time teaching at the time of application and intend to return to teaching for at least two years after completing the project;
3. are U.S. citizens or foreign nationals who have been residents of the United States or its territories for at least three years immediately preceding the time of application. American citizens who are full-time teachers of American students abroad may also apply;
4. are not past recipients of the NEH Teacher-Scholar award.

Application Forms

Guidelines and application forms for the NEH Teacher-Scholar Program are available from the Endowment. Applications must be received no later than May 1 for grant periods beginning September of the following year. To request these guidelines and forms, please write or call

Teacher-Scholar Program
Division of Education Programs, Room 302
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506
202/786-0377

For information about summer institutes and other grant opportunities offered by the Elementary and Secondary Education in the Humanities Program, write to the Division of Education Programs at the above address.

Equal Opportunity

Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age. For further information, write to the director, Office of Equal Opportunity, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506.

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Humanities



Teacher-Scholar Program

Independent Study for
Elementary and Secondary
School Teachers
