



ACLS New Faculty Fellows Frequently Asked Questions (10/8/09)

The Nomination Process

1. Q: Who is eligible for nomination by their university?

A: Nominees must fulfill the following eligibility criteria:

- A PhD in a humanities discipline or humanistic social sciences, which includes history, anthropology, and such areas as political theory, historical sociology, and economic history.
- The PhD must be awarded between January 2008 and December 2009.

PhDs who have already secured tenure-track positions are not eligible. There is no citizenship requirement for this program.

2. Q: What about potential nominees who will finish in January 2010 due to the academic term or who only need to file or to defend their dissertations?

A: They are not eligible; candidates will need to have their PhD in hand by December 2009.

3. Q: When is the nomination deadline? Should the nominations include supporting material?

A: The list of nominated candidates (including their departmental affiliation and email address) must be sent from the designated institutional liaison to ACLS no later than October 28, 2009. No supplementary materials are needed at that time. The list should be sent to Nicole Stahlmann (nstahlmann@acls.org).

4. Q: What is the process by which each institution nominates their candidates?

A: Each institution handles the institution-wide selection and nomination process independently. ACLS receives a list of nominations from the designated institutional liaison. The participating institutions are best positioned to answer queries about their internal nomination process.

5. Q: I fit the eligibility requirements; can I apply directly to ACLS rather than through my university?

A: No. Candidates need to be nominated by their PhD-granting institution. Please check with your university about its nomination process.

6. Q: Why is each institution nominating three tenured faculty members to be reviewers?

A: ACLS asks that each institution select three tenured faculty to serve as ACLS reviewers for this program. ACLS expects to receive as many as 1,000 nominations from participating universities. It would be most helpful if universities suggested possible reviewers representing different disciplines and specializations in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. Reviewers will receive a small honorarium of \$200. ACLS hopes that faculty suggested as reviewers will be willing to participate in later decisions regarding appointments to awardees. The university liaison should submit the names of the reviewers also by October 28, 2009.



7. Q: What are the responsibilities of the reviewers? What is the timeline for their services?

A: As with all ACLS programs, applications will undergo a rigorous peer-review and selection process. Faculty members identified by the universities will each review up to twenty dossiers by applicants through a secure online portal. Reviewers will assign a numerical grade to each application and have the option of providing comments. ACLS anticipates that reviewers will receive electronic access to the dossiers by early December and will have two weeks for submitting their evaluations. Reviewers will not be asked to assess applicants from their home institution.

8. Q: Can institutional liaisons also serve as reviewers?

A: Yes. ACLS hopes that institutional liaisons will help determine the final awardees.

9. Q: Why is the timeline so tight? Why is this process moving so quickly?

A: ACLS understands that the timeline may be challenging, but considers it necessary in order to articulate with university hiring cycles and to provide some immediate help to PhDs and departments for the 2010-11 academic year.

The Application Process

10. Q: What will nominees be asked to submit in their applications?

A: After nomination, candidates will receive an email from ACLS asking them to apply to the program via a secure link to an online application. In addition to providing standard personal information, the candidate will be asked to upload a) a cover letter speaking to research interests and teaching competence, b) a two-page CV, c) a writing sample. Specific information on all the required documents will be available on the application portal. Additionally, ACLS will be requesting three letters of recommendation. This entire application dossier of selected fellows will be available to liaisons through the web-based clearinghouse that ACLS will establish.

11. Q: What is the timeline for applications?

A: Nominees will be asked to submit their applications online by mid-November. The exact date will be indicated in the application portal. Applicants will be notified of decisions by mid-January. Should an applicant accept a job offer during that time, ACLS requests to be notified and will withdraw the application from the competition.

12. Q: Who will review the applications?

A: Each application will be reviewed by tenured faculty at other institutions who have been selected by their institutions for this program.

13. Q: How many New Faculty Fellows will there be? How many applications are expected?

A: There will be fifty New Faculty Fellows. ACLS expects about 1,000 nominations from which fifty awardees will be selected.

14. Q: Will there be an awardee waiting list?

A: No, there will not be a waiting list for this program.



15. Q: What if awardees are considering other fellowships and employment opportunities at the time of their selection?

A: Should an applicant accept another offer during that time, ACLS requests to be notified and will withdraw the application from the competition.

16. Q: Can awardees accept another fellowship in addition to being a New Faculty Fellow or defer the appointment?

A: No, the award cannot be combined with any other fellowship or deferred.

17. Q: Can the appointment be at the fellow's home institution?

A: No, fellows cannot be appointed at their home institutions.

The Appointment Process

18. Q: What happens once the awardees are selected?

A: After the fifty awardees are selected, ACLS will set up a password protected, web-based clearinghouse containing a roster of the awardees and their dossiers. ACLS expects that each institutional liaison will circulate the roster to the departments and programs that match the teaching and research specializations of the awardees. If the institution finds interest in a particular awardee, it can make the offer directly to him/her with a notice to ACLS. Institutions cannot offer appointments to their own PhDs. The decision to accept an appointment at an institution will lie with the awardee.

19. Q: When will this process begin? How long will it last?

A: ACLS expects to make dossiers of selected fellows available by early February. ACLS will provide more details closer to that stage.

20. Q: How many offers can an institution make?

A: Participating institutions may make offers of appointment to multiple awardees, and if awardees are fortunate enough to receive several offers they may choose among them.

21. Q: What institutions will offer positions to New Faculty Fellows?

A: The sixty US members of the Association of American Universities and a small group of selective liberal arts colleges will be able to offer positions to New Faculty Fellows. A final list of participating institutions will be posted on the application portal.

22. Q: How will receiving institutions fund their share of the cost of a New Faculty Fellow?

A: ACLS expects that each college and university will answer this in a different way. Despite the recession's impact upon institutional finances, ACLS hopes that the prospect of appointing a promising young scholar with substantial outside funding will prove attractive to many institutions.

23. Q: What constitutes the fellowship award?

A: The New Faculty Fellows program will provide \$50,000 plus \$5,000 research/travel allowance annually, health insurance, and a \$1,500 one-time moving allowance for awardees matched with an



institution. The two-year teaching and research appointment will begin in fall 2010. The teaching load will be three semester-length courses per year, or at institutions using the quarter system, $\frac{3}{4}$ the obligation of a starting assistant professor at that institution.

24. Q: What are the receiving institutions' responsibilities?

A: Institutions receiving appointments will be asked to share part of the costs of the appointments: universities will share 1/3 of the cost of the awards; colleges will share 1/4 of the cost. A university's contribution for a New Faculty Fellow will be a maximum of \$20,000 (depending on moving expenses and health insurance). A college's contribution for a New Faculty Fellow will be a maximum of \$15,000 (depending on moving expenses and health insurance). ACLS expects participating institutions to provide mentors to New Faculty Fellows.

25. Q: The cost of health insurance varies by institution. How will this be handled?

A: As health insurance varies by institutions, ACLS will contribute up to a flat \$5,000 per year with the remainder provided by the receiving institution.

26. Q: Can the New Faculty Fellows be designated as "Visiting Assistant Professor" or "Post-doctoral Lecturer" within the institution?

A: Yes. ACLS understands that the actual title of the New Faculty Fellows will vary from campus to campus.

27. Q: Are there any costs for the awardee's nominating institution?

A: No, there are no costs.

28. Q: What happens if an awardee does not receive an offer from an institution?

A: A fellow receiving no offers will be given a one-year fellowship of \$35,000, which will be entirely covered by ACLS. This fellowship is portable as it comes neither with extra provisions (research monies, health insurance) nor with the commitments (teaching obligation). These fellows may spend their tenure where they wish.

29. Q: Can an awardee with an offer from an institution choose the one-year fellowship instead of a two-year appointment?

A: No. Fellows who do not accept a bona fide offer that complies with the terms of the program will forfeit the award. Candidates who are unable or unwilling to relocate should not apply.