



FDGF 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

What is the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship?

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship is offered by CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange and the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions, two organizations partnering to change who studies abroad. The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship seeks to break down the barriers of cost, curriculum, and culture to make study abroad accessible to students from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). This opportunity is made available to all MSIs, which includes about 600 institutions, making this a highly competitive fellowship given our acceptance of only 10 students. Eligible students who apply but are not selected as a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow can take advantage of the CIEE Frederick Douglass Summer Scholars Grant.¹

Why is this fellowship named after Frederick Douglass?

The scholarship is named in honor of Frederick Douglass – the African American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and international statesman – to highlight the characteristics that today’s young leaders need most: a keen intellect, a strong work ethic, and a global perspective. Consistent with Douglass’ legacy, Frederick Douglass Global Fellows are meritorious individuals who demonstrate high academic achievement, exemplary communication skills, the hallmarks of self-determination, characteristics of bold leadership, and a history of service to others. In the spirit of one of America’s most powerful intellectual, communicator, and scholar, *Frederick Douglass Global Fellows commit to sharing their experience and intercultural growth with peers and classmates, before, during, and after the fellowship.*

¹ Frederick Douglass Summer Scholars (FDSS) awards \$1,500 toward summer programs. Several institutional presidents have committed to matching those funds, so students are awarded \$3,000 toward a summer program. A list of matching grant institutions can be found at cīee.org/fdgf.

What are the eligibility requirements for this fellowship?

This is a highly competitive fellowship opportunity. As such, eligible applicants must be freshmen or sophomore undergraduates enrolled at an accredited Minority Serving Institution and have a minimum 3.00 GPA. Eligible applicants must also be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or permanent resident and eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Does the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship cover all costs related to the program?

The award covers the full cost of travel, lodging, program field trips, and participation in a four-week summer study abroad course sponsored by CIEE. Visa and passport fees will also be covered; however, students will be responsible for securing their own passport. Students are responsible for meals and recreational activities.

Are dates made available at this time?

The 2020 Cape Town fellowship will take place from July 13, 2020 to August 9, 2020.

Is there an itinerary available for review?

Students participating in the 2020 summer program to Cape Town, South Africa will be enrolled in one course – *Intercultural Communication and Leadership in Cape Town*. Any additional questions pertaining to program activities can be directed to Dr. Keshia Abraham (kabraham@ciee.org) at CIEE.

For students who are not selected for the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship, are there any similar programs available?

Yes, all eligible applicants who are not selected for the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship are qualified for a \$1,500 Frederick Douglass Summer Scholar Grant. Some institutional presidents have committed to matching this grant so more students are able to study abroad. Please check ciee/fdggf to see if your school offers a match. At this time, there are no additional co-sponsored programs available for which students may apply. However, please check ciee.org for alternative program opportunities.

Does the summer abroad program earn course credit?

Yes! The *Intercultural Communication and Leadership in Cape Town* course is worth 3 credits, endorsed by Tulane University and treated as transfer credit for the home institution of the student (where applicable, CIEE pays for any transcript costs). If the student's institution accepts CIEE Academic Record, the credit will be applied without need for Tulane's endorsement.

APPLICATION**Can someone submit an application on behalf of a student?**

Students are responsible for applying to this opportunity, as the application requires specific personal information.

Who should write a letter of recommendation for this application?

The letter may come from the student's institution president, chancellor, provost, vice provost, dean or a faculty member at the institution.

Will students receive a confirmation email once the application is submitted?

Upon submission, students will automatically receive a confirmation email.

For freshman applicants who have not received their first collegiate transcript, what documentation should be submitted?

Incoming freshman applicants who have not received their first college transcript should submit their high school transcripts with their application. The high school transcript should demonstrate a 3.00 GPA. If selected, the fellow will be required to submit their first semester college transcript to demonstrate that they have maintained the minimum 3.00 GPA.

Once an application is submitted, can a student make edits and re-submit?

The application system does not allow for students to make edits to submitted applications. Updates are to be communicated with Dr. Abraham at kabraham@ciecee.org.

Can students submit an unofficial transcript with their application?

Students are permitted to upload an unofficial transcript along with their application. However, if selected, fellows will have to provide an official transcript.

Is there a preferred software for constructing the personal video?

Students must upload their video to YouTube or Vimeo and share the link in the application. Students should ensure that the link works prior to adding to their application and that the video is public, as we will not have access to view private videos.

PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Are students who are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant encouraged to apply?

Unfortunately, this opportunity is only open to students who demonstrate financial need. Therefore, students who are not eligible to receive a Pell Grants are discouraged from applying for this particular program and encouraged to visit ciecee.org for other opportunities.

If a student was eligible for a Federal Pell Grant but a recent change in financial need made them ineligible, can they still apply?

Students that have experienced a recent change in Pell Grant eligibility are still encouraged to apply. When completing the application, the student should include an explanation of the change in their financial need and should provide alternative documentation that demonstrates they are still considered a low-income student.

Are students who are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, but demonstrate financial need, eligible to apply?

This opportunity is for low-income students. Therefore, students must be able to demonstrate financial need. Students who are not Pell Grant eligible, but can provide official documentation from their institution's financial aid office that indicates financial need may apply.

What document should be submitted to prove eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant?

There isn't a specific document required. Any documentation provided by your current institution's financial aid office that can verify Pell Grant eligibility is acceptable. The preferred documentation is the SAR (Student Aid Report).

ELIGIBILITY

What is the desired classification for students interested in applying? Can juniors apply?

Currently we are only accepting applications from freshmen (who will be rising sophomores during the study abroad program) and sophomores (who will be rising juniors during the study abroad program).

Are graduate students eligible to apply?

No, at this time, graduate students are ineligible to apply.

Are students with a GPA lower than 3.00 still eligible to apply?

No, students must have at least a 3.00 GPA. We are seeking high achieving students with demonstrated success in and out of the classroom. Students who do not have the minimum GPA but are still interested in other study abroad opportunities, should visit ciee.org to identify other options.

Can second-semester sophomores apply?

Yes, as long as the student will be a rising junior during the program, they are eligible to apply.

Are international students eligible to apply?

International students can apply. However, we do encourage international students to inquire about the policies and stipulations regarding the potential visa requirements to enter the host country for the study abroad experience (e.g. United Kingdom for 2017 cohort). Students are responsible for any associated fees regarding the procurement of visas for their visit to the country hosting the study abroad experiences for this Fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Does the recommendation have to come from an institution’s President/Chancellor?

No, the letter may come from the student’s institution president, chancellor, provost, vice provost, dean or a faculty member at their institution.

To whom should the recommendation letter be addressed?

The letter should be addressed to: CIEE and The Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

How should the letter of recommendation be submitted?

In the application, there is a task which asks applicant to submit the name and email address of the person they are requesting a recommendation from. The recommender will receive an email asking them to upload his or her letter of recommendation to your application. This recommendation must speak to the student’s experience and drive as a promising global leader.

DACA STUDENTS

Are students living in the U.S. under the DACA program eligible for the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship program?

Although we are supportive of undocumented students and have done work in this area, they are ineligible to participate in this fellowship due to limited mobility in traveling abroad. If students can receive permission to travel outside of the U.S, they would be eligible. However, due to the long and costly process for students and the lack of support provided to students, we advise against it.

If DACA students still wish to apply, are there any special instructions for the application process?

When completing the application, students are encouraged to mention DACA in the Citizenship section of the application. Rather than submitting proof of Pell Grant eligibility, students should also submit proof of initiation of Advanced Parole or any other process that ensures they can travel beyond the U.S. Please keep in mind that CIEE and the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions are unable to assist students throughout this process that costs approximately \$360.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Are students that currently attend community college, but plan to transfer to a four-year university eligible to apply?

This opportunity is only for students at Minority Serving Institutions. Therefore, if a student transfers to an institution that is not an MSI, this may render them ineligible. If selected, final decisions would be made on a case by case basis.

Are transfer students who are not familiar with their institution's president/chancellor discouraged to apply?

Transfer students are encouraged to still reach out to their institution's president/chancellor. This opportunity is very competitive, and we want to ensure that we are receiving the most outstanding and motivated students. As such, students should approach their president/chancellor and advocate for a recommendation letter. This alone demonstrates a great deal of initiative, motivation, and drive.

Are transfer students who have not yet amassed a GPA on campus eligible to apply?

For a student who does not yet have an official transcript at the current institution, they may use a final official transcript from their previous institution that demonstrates the minimum 3.00 GPA.

If selected, what will transfer students be required to submit?

If selected, the student will have to submit their first semester transcript demonstrating that they were able to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA at the new institution. These students will still need a letter of recommendation from their current president. If the student does not have a relationship with the president, they are encouraged to reach out to a faculty/staff member for assistance with writing the letter and have the president serve as a primary cosigner.

SELECTION PROCESS

Will only one student from each Minority Serving Institution be selected?

In total, 10 MSI students will be selected to participate in the program. There is no cap on how many students can apply or be selected from any institution. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.

Can a selected student defer their participation for the following summer opportunity?

Students may not defer their fellowship for the following summer. Selected students must attend the summer program for which they applied. If they are unable to attend that session, they will forfeit their fellowship. Students who wish to apply for later study abroad programs should look for future application opportunities.