

THE OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE NETWORK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL FELLOWS PROGRAM 2010

FOR PhD STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA or CANADA

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 23, 2009

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The OSI Doctoral Fellows Program is designed to provide the highest research and teaching qualifications to individuals from Tajikistan and Moldova who are positioned to become leading scholars in the social sciences and humanities. Upon completion of the degree, fellows are required to return home to continue or begin academic careers, where they will play an active role in the revitalization and reform of scholarship both in their discipline and in higher education, generally.

Up to **15** awards will be offered annually for study in the **United States** or **Canada**. Grantees can receive full support for up to 4 years of full-time study.

Fellowships are offered in: political science, international relations, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, economics, and history.

ELIGIBILITY

The Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The competition is merit-based and open to those meeting the following criteria:

- Current resident of Moldova or Tajikistan;
- Excellent academic record and an advanced degree (minimum: BA) at time of application deadline; those with local post-graduate degrees are encouraged to apply;
- Proficiency in spoken and written English (or French, for placement at Canadian francophone universities) at the time of application;
- Professional scholarly aptitude and leadership potential in academia;
- Ability to receive and maintain the appropriate study permit and/or visa for the host country;
- Ability to attend the Program's pre-academic summer school beginning in July;
- Commitment to return to home country immediately after Program to pursue or continue a career in academia;
- Sincere motivation to aid ongoing reform efforts in higher education at home.

BENEFITS

The Fellowship provides:

- Tuition and university fees for up to 4 years, requiring full-time enrollment;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and living expenses;
- Air travel to and from host universities at the start and conclusion of Program;
- One trip home during Program for research purposes;
- Accident and sickness insurance during Program;
- Annual allowances for academic materials & professional development;
- Facilitation of all visa and travel arrangements;
- Pre-academic training in academic writing & research methods;
- Participation in annual fellows' conference.

The Fellowship does NOT provide:

- Funding or support for dependent family members (stipends are calculated to support only the individual grantee);
- Funding for non-fellowship travel expenses;
- Summer stipends for activities unrelated to doctoral completion;
- Guaranteed placement at finalist's preferred department.

SELECTION PROCESS

Competition for the NSP Doctoral Program is open, merit-based, and relies heavily on host university admissions criteria. Selection is made on the basis of academic excellence, professional aptitude, scholarly potential in the field of specialization, commitment to improving teaching and research at home institution, long-term commitment to a career in higher education, and strong English (or French) language ability. Final placement in a US or Canadian doctoral program is not guaranteed, and depends on matching finalists to appropriate departments and universities that will accept their credentials for admission. Selection is performed as follows:

SEMIFINALIST SELECTION:

A committee comprised of host university faculty and admissions officials reviews eligible applications and recommends which applicants to either reject or to move to the next stage of review (semifinalist). To assist the selection committee in screening the initial applicant pool, **all applicants** will be required to take the "unofficial" TOEFL (TOEFL-ITP) shortly after the fellowship deadline, on a date to be announced. Waivers may be given to those applicants who have completed a BA or Master's level degree within the last two years in which English was the language of instruction, or those who have valid IELTS or TOEFL scores less than two years old.

TESTING

All those progressing to the semifinalist stage of competition will be required to take the official TOEFL and GRE in **November or December 2009**, unless they hold competitive test scores less than two years old. TOEFL waivers may be granted in the case of those holding valid IELTS scores, but applicants seeking such waivers should understand that not all US universities accept IELTS; the applicant's placement options will be correspondingly limited to schools that accept either test.

Test results are an integral part of the University application process and are needed for suitable PhD placements. Universities generally require TOEFL test result levels, taken within two years of the University term start date in the range of 88-100 for the internet based test (iBT), 230-250 in the computer-based test (CBT) or 570-600 in the paper-based test (PBT). Applicants in fields with a strong quantitative/mathematical component (such as economics and certain subfields of sociology and political science) should focus on preparing for the GRE quantitative section and research host university expectations for this test.

In anticipation of semifinalist selection, all candidates are encouraged to begin preparation for the TOEFL and GRE tests immediately, including taking timed practice tests independently. More information on test preparation is available from the OSI Representatives and from the following resource: <http://www.ets.org/>

The Local OSI Representative in each country will contact successfully-chosen semifinalists to schedule GRE and TOEFL tests. The tests will be organized and paid for by the OSI Representative and information on the location and test date will be passed to you. Please be aware that flexibility on the side of the applicant is needed and individual dates for taking the test can only be negotiated in *exceptional* circumstances. Please also be aware that due to a shortage in available testing sites and the popularity of test dates, candidates may be required to travel to other countries to take the test. Candidates in Tajikistan may need to travel to Almaty to take the GRE; those in Moldova may need to travel to Kyiv. Travel and accommodation arrangements will be made on the candidates' behalf in such cases.

OSI has institutional testing codes which enable test results to be sent to us directly. Candidates will also receive a copy to their home address. OSI representatives may ask to keep the original or take a copy of the results should there be a delay in receiving the reports.

- **OSI code for TOEFL: 2133**
- **OSI code for GRE: 3890**

Please make sure you have these numbers on hand when attending the tests as they need to be registered before the test begins.

If taking the iBT TOEFL test, you will have an online account established with ETS using the personal email given on the application form. Please monitor your email and this account regularly after the test, as important information regarding the results of the tests will be made available.

TOEFL scores are generally available through logging on to the online TOEFL account at: <http://www.ets.org> 15 days after the test has been completed, with the original paper certificates taking up to 4 weeks to reach the addresses and institutions listed in the report.

GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores for those taking the computer-based test are available to view unofficially at the test center, but the Analytical Writing component will be missing. Please take a note of these scores on paper and relay them immediately to the OSI Representative: no print outs are available. Official Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing scores will be sent to the address provided and the score report recipients 10 - 15 days after the test date. For those taking the paper-based test, test results may take up to 6 weeks to be delivered.

INTERVIEWS & FINALIST SELECTION

Semifinalists are interviewed in their home countries by a committee composed of OSI representatives and international academics. This committee chooses finalists based on previous assessments of the written application, the candidates' performance during the interview, and standardized test results.

Finalists continue on to the departmental placement stage. Interviews will be held in **late November / early December 2009** and applicants should make themselves available for an interview around this time

FINALIST PLACEMENT

Finalist placement is a collaborative process involving NSP and potential host university faculty and staff. Finalists are normally not permitted to select their own placements, although suggestions for host universities are welcomed on the application form and will be taken into consideration. OSI formally notifies finalists of awards only after placements have been secured. Please note that this can be as late as June.

OSI aims to make the best choice for the candidate based on the PhD subject and the suitability of supervision at the host university. Candidates will be informed by email from the OSI Program Manager of a successful placement. In some cases, candidates may have the choice of 2-3 placements from which they can make a selection. OSI asks for your patience during this time.

All unsuccessful candidates will be informed in writing via email or hard copy of the result of their application.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

OSI will support the scholar through the visa admissions process by negotiating with the host university to have the necessary visa forms created. Please be aware that all visa application forms, appointments, passport photographs etc. must be made by the scholar locally. OSI representatives will be available for help and guidance during the process.

Visas for Canada: study permits for Canada may take much longer to process than US visas, and may require travel to a third country for an interview. Medical tests may also be required of candidates. More information on the visa process is available at the following link: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study.asp>

Support is not given for traveling family members in the visa process. OSI would like to reiterate that the stipend rate, which is based on the Monthly Maintenance Rate set by Fulbright each year (see: <http://www.iie.org/>), is sufficient for housing, travel, food and incidental expenses for a **single person** at the particular host university only. Extra support for maintenance of family members will not be considered.

OSI will put any scholar with traveling family members directly in contact with the Responsible Visa Officer at the host university to enable the necessary visa papers to be produced. In order to prevent the visa process for the scholar being slowed down, *OSI urges all candidates to make sure valid passports for all accompanying spouses (legal marriage certificate needed) or children be arranged in advance.* Scholars must also prove to the host university they have sufficient personal funds available to cover the expenses for their spouse or children in advance. More information on the costs for dependents is available through the individual university websites.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Flights to the US are booked through OSI. Please indicate on your application form if you have a valid Schengen visa. OSI will advise scholars to make the necessary housing arrangements with the host university as soon as the placement has been confirmed by the host and the scholar. If no housing is arranged in advance or University housing is unavailable, OSI will book a hotel stay for up to 7 nights upon arrival in a local hotel.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please submit all completed application forms and all necessary accompanying documents, along with a copy of your passport to the OSI Representative below:

Tajikistan

Gulnora Choukourbekova, Scholarships
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Moldova

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If you should have any program-specific queries, please direct them to OSI Program Coordinator, Ms. Zoë Brogden:

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