

New America's Fellows Program Application Instructions

Please read the full instructions before you begin your application.

How to Apply:

To be considered for the 2026 Fellows Class, which runs from September 2025 to May 2026, you must submit your application by **February 3, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST**. Your reference letters are due no later than **February 6, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST**.

You can access the Class of 2026 Fellows Program application here:

<https://newamerica.smapply.org/prog/classof2026>

Accessing SurveyMonkey Apply:

Before applying, you will be prompted to create a SurveyMonkey Apply account (please look for an email from "fellowships@newamerica.org" in your inbox). If you applied to the program for the last three cycles (Classes 2023-2025) or have used SurveyMonkey Apply elsewhere, you will already have an account. You can use the same login details to access this year's application. If you have an account but have forgotten your password, click "forgot your password" on the login page to receive a link to reset it.

Application Checklist:

(click on each to see detailed instructions)

- 1. [1-3 sentence project description](#)
- 2. [Statement of interest](#) (2,000-word limit)
- 3. [Plan of approach](#) (500-word limit)
- 4. [Policy implications](#) (500-word limit)
- 5. [Resume](#) (not to exceed five pages)
- 6. [A cover page for written work samples](#)
 - A Word template can be [downloaded here](#), however, if you prefer to prepare your own cover page, please note that it should include your full name and the following information about each sample as follows:
 - Title:
 - Publication:
 - Publication date:
 - Description of the piece (1-3 sentence summary):
- 7. [Up to three \(3\) written and/or non-written work samples](#)
- 8. [Two \(2\) reference letters](#)
 - Note: Reference letters are due by **February 6, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST**

Components of Your Application:

After you begin your application, you will be prompted to enter basic contact and background information. You will then be asked to complete the eight central components of your application:

1. **A 1-3 sentence description of your Fellowship project.**

2. **Statement of Interest:**

The core of the application in which you explain your proposal for the fellowship—your line of inquiry, how you plan to develop it, why you feel this project will enrich an important public debate, and how you could contribute to and benefit from a fellowship from New America.

This statement **should not exceed 2,000 words.**

3. **Plan of Approach:**

Your plan of approach should explain how the proposed project will be executed during the fellowship, including your plan for dissemination once the project is complete.

Projects can be completed outside the fellowship year, but the plan of approach for the year should be articulated in this section.

This statement **should not exceed 500 words.**

4. **Policy Implications:**

A brief statement that explains the policy implications of your stated project. Avoid duplicating portions of your statement of interest above by focusing on the impact you hope your project will have.

If your project is primarily journalistic, analytic, or historical, how do you believe its lessons might change policy going forward? If your project is built around a policy proposal, how do you anticipate shepherding it from an idea to an implemented reality? If your project overlaps with policy programs at New America, use this statement to discuss that area of overlap: How would your project add to New America's existing policy work in your area?

This statement **should not exceed 500 words.**

5. **Resume:**

Your professional resume or biography. The form will only accept a PDF file.

Not to exceed five (5) pages.

6. **Work Samples Cover Page (for written samples only):**

A cover page for written work samples **is required**; a Word template can be [downloaded here](#). If you prefer to prepare your own cover page, please note that it should include your full name and the following information about each sample as follows:

- Title:
- Publication:
- Publication date:
- Description of the piece (1-3 sentence summary):

A cover page is not required for non-written work samples, as you will be asked to enter information about your video or audio samples in the form itself.

7. **Written and/or Non-written Work Samples:**

(please read these instructions carefully before preparing your work samples)

Instructions for submitting **written** work samples only:

- You can submit **up to three (3) work samples combined into one PDF file packet** that includes your cover page.
- Your writing samples should **not exceed 40 pages** (41 with the cover page).

Instructions for submitting **non-written** work samples only:

- Based on the project you are proposing, we will accept **up to three (3) non-written work samples** (film and/or audio clips).
- Due to limited upload capacity, please submit a link for each work sample (with or without a password).
- **All video and/or audio clips must be your original work, aiming to convey a sense of your capabilities and aesthetic.** For instance, **TED talks or media interviews will not count** as an original non-written work sample and should not be submitted as a work sample to support your application.
- Non-written work samples (film and/or audio clips) **should not exceed a half-hour of total video or audio content.**
- **A cover page is not required for non-written work samples**, as you will be asked to enter information about your video or audio samples in your application form.

Instructions for submitting a **combination** of written & non-written work samples:

- You may submit one or two (1 or 2) written work samples in combination with one or two (1 or 2) video/audio work samples that may be relevant to your candidacy for the Fellowship. **However, you may not share more than three (3) work samples in total.**

8. **Two Reference Letters:**

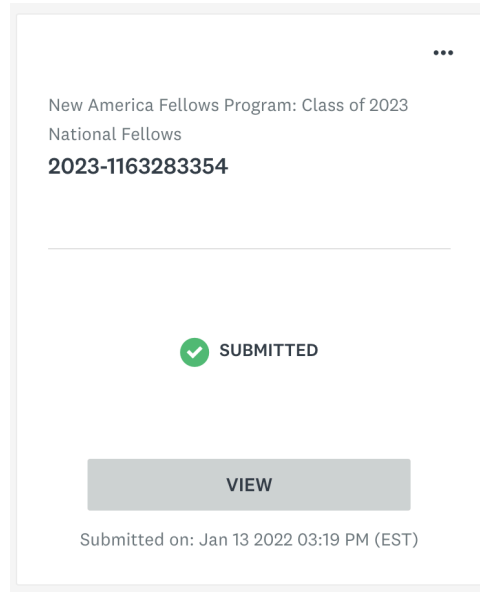
You must submit the two reference letter requests through the application portal by the February 3, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST application deadline. However, the deadline to receive reference letters is **February 6, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST.** Applications missing reference letters will be considered incomplete.

References will receive a file upload link to their inbox from SurveyMonkey Apply and can upload their letter directly in the portal. If your reference has trouble uploading their letter, please ask that they email their letter (PDF preferred) to FellowsProgram@newamerica.org, and we will upload it to your application on their behalf.

Application Submission Notification:

When you finish the required sections and submit your application, you will be taken to a confirmation page stating that you have successfully submitted your materials. You will also receive a similar confirmation email at your provided email address. **Please note that all submissions are final, and you will not be given permission to edit your application once submitted.**

Your application submission status will show “SUBMITTED” per the example image below:



Status of Your Application:

You will receive an email in April regarding the status of your application (finalist or declined). In addition, please know that we will be able to see the status in the portal as well (in place of “SUBMITTED”), so you can log in at any time to see the status of your application.

Questions:

In addition to these instructions, we are confident you can find enough information on our website to guide you as you prepare your application. However, if you have additional questions, we recommend reading through our [FAQ](#) and the bios/project summaries for those Fellows in our [current class](#).

Please note that due to the volume of applications we receive, we cannot extend the deadline, take individual calls to answer questions about the program and/or the application process, provide feedback on a project idea, or provide feedback on an application after a decision is made.

You can learn more about the Fellows Program by [exploring our program website](#) and the [Fellows Archive](#) to see the full body of work produced by New America’s Fellows.

Thank you again for your interest in the New America Fellows Program.