Application Instructions

New America Fellows Program

Please read the full instructions carefully before starting your application.

How to Apply

To be considered for the next **Class of Fellows**, which typically runs **from September through May**, please submit your application by the stated deadline **on our website**. Reference letters are due shortly after the application deadline.

Accessing the Application Platform

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 Fellows Program in one of the previous three application cycles or have used SurveyMonkey Apply for another opportunity, you can log in with the same account. If you have forgotten your password, click **"Forgot your password?"** on the login page to receive a reset link.

Application Checklist

Application Narrative

- ☐ (1) **Project title and description**
- ☐ (2) **Statement of interest** (2,000-word limit)
- ☐ (3) **Project status & Plan of approach** (650-word limit)
- ☐ (4) **Policy implications** (500-word limit)
- ☐ (5) **Cohort contributions** (250-word limit)

Resume and Work Samples

- ☐ (6) **Resume** (5-page limit)
- ☐ (7) **Work samples cover page** (for written samples only)
- ☐ (8) **Up to three work samples**

Reference Details

- ☐ (9) **Two reference letters**

Application Components

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

1. **Project title and description**

   Provide a tentative project title and a 1–3 sentence summary of your proposed fellowship project.

2. **Statement of interest**

   Explain your proposal for the fellowship—your line of inquiry, how you plan to develop it, why this project will enrich a critical public debate, and how you hope to contribute to and benefit from a New America fellowship. **(Maximum 2,000 words)**

3. **Project status & Plan of approach**

   Describe the current status of your project (including reporting completed, drafts underway, and any contracts, partners, or funding in place) and share how you plan to execute your project during the fellowship, including your dissemination strategy once the project is complete. Projects may be finalized after the fellowship, but the intended scope and goals for the fellowship period should be clearly articulated here. **(Maximum 650 words)**

4. **Policy implications**

   Describe the policy implications of your project. Please focus on the impact you intend for your project to have and avoid duplicating material from your proposal above.

   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? **(Maximum 500 words)**

5. **Cohort contributions**

   Tell us about any experience, expertise, skills, or interests you bring that you think could be of service to the entire cohort. You are welcome to share anything professional or personal that could impact the group's shared learning and community. **(Maximum 250 words)**

6. **Resume**

   Upload your professional CV, resume, or biography as a PDF file. **(Maximum 5 pages)**

7. **Work samples cover page** (for written samples only)

   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.

A cover page for written work samples is required; a Word template **is available for download** here. If you prefer to prepare your own cover page, please include your full name and the following information about each sample:

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

8. Up to three written and/or non-written work samples

Please read the following instructions carefully before preparing your work samples:

Instructions for submitting *written* work samples only:

- You may submit up to **three (3) work samples** combined into a **single PDF file**.
- Samples should be closely connected to the project you are proposing.
- The samples should **not exceed 40 pages** (41 pages, including the cover page).

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

- Non-written work samples may only be submitted by applicants proposing a non-written fellowship product (e.g., film, podcast, or multimedia project).
- Based on the project you are proposing, you may submit **up to three (3) non-written work samples** (typically film and/or audio clips). **Filmmakers are required to include a clip, trailer, or sizzle reel of the film they are proposing. Podcast and multimedia applicants are strongly encouraged to include a comparable excerpt.**
- Due to limited upload capacity, please **provide a link for each sample** (with or without a password).
- **All video and/or audio clips must be your original work** and convey your capabilities and aesthetic. **Do not include public talks or media interviews** (e.g., TED Talks, speeches, or press appearances), as these do not qualify as original work samples.
- Non-written work samples **should not exceed 30 minutes 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 directly in the application form.

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

- Non-written work samples may only be submitted by applicants proposing a non-written fellowship product (e.g., film, podcast, or multimedia project).
- **You may submit one or two (1 or 2) written work samples with the cover page** (not exceeding a total of 31 pages) **in combination with one or two (1 or 2) video/audio work samples** that are relevant to your fellowship application.
- However, the total number of work samples—written and non-written combined—**may not exceed three (3) in total.**

9. **Two reference letters:**

   You must submit two reference letter requests through the application portal by the stated deadline **on our website** and the application form. Reference letters are due shortly after the application deadline. 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 them to email it (PDF preferred) to **FellowsProgram@newamerica.org**, and we will upload it to your application on their behalf.

Use of AI

Your application narrative, including your statement of interest, plan of approach, and other written responses, must be written entirely by you. **The use of generative AI (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or similar tools) to draft or rewrite any part of it is prohibited.** Standard spelling and grammar checks are permitted.

Your work samples must also be your own original writing, reporting, or creative work. AI tools that handle mechanical tasks without generating the substance of the work are acceptable, such as transcription software used for interviews quoted in a written piece, or automated captions and audio cleanup on a film or podcast clip.

Applicants who do not adhere to this policy may be disqualified from consideration.

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 the email address you provided. **Please note that all submissions are final and cannot be edited once submitted.**

Status of Your Application

You will receive an email in April regarding the status of your application (whether you are selected as a finalist or not). You will also be able to view your application status directly in the portal—your submission status will update from “Submitted” once decisions are released.

Questions

In addition to these instructions, you will find ample information on our website to help guide you as you prepare your application. If you have additional questions, we recommend reviewing our **FAQ** and the bios/project summaries for the 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.**

Thank you for your interest in applying!