

Are BS and BA graduates eligible for Fellowships?

ProFellow offers the tips below.

Fellowships are no longer just for graduate students or PhDs. There is a growing number of merit-based **professional fellowships** that provide entry into a first job or career change, fund international work experiences, cultivate emerging leaders and changemakers, and support self-designed projects and social enterprises.

So what is a professional fellowship exactly? I define it as a *short-term, competitive, paid opportunity to do something exceptional*.

Many professional fellowships function like full time jobs ranging from a few months to 1 year in length, and are funded and hosted by a wide range of organizations including non-profits and NGOs, foundations, government agencies, universities, media organizations and companies. This includes summer fellowships for enrolled or graduating students seeking to gain professional skills during the summer.

Here's what you need to know about professional fellowships:

1. **Fellowships are merit-based and have a competitive application process similar to a graduate school application.** A fellowship application typically requires a personal essay, short answer responses, recommendation letters, a resume, and sometimes transcripts and other items. Fellowships that fund a self-designed project also require a project proposal. Although application formats vary, they almost always require a written application and professional references. If you're selected as a finalist, you'll also be invited to participate in an individual or group interview.
2. **Most fellowships are paid, providing financial support in the form of a stipend, salary, or grant.** Sometimes fellowships include other benefits like health insurance, travel or relocation grants, funding for dependents, discretionary funding for language classes, or housing.
3. **Fellowships are an opportunity to do something exceptional!** Fellowships often provide you the resources, support and professional networks to pursue goals that you might not otherwise be able to achieve in a typical job or internship. The title of "Fellow" alone indicates a position of prestige.
4. **Fellowships exist in virtually every discipline.** You will find fellowships across all fields and disciplines including public policy, law, education, social justice, STEM, journalism, creative arts, history, economics, business, architecture, technology, peace, sociology, public health, humanities and much more. If you can't find a fellowship specific to your niche discipline, you can likely pursue your interests in a multi-disciplinary discipline that supports fellows from all fields.
5. **Application deadlines for professional fellowships are several months to a year before the fellowship begins,** so it is good to begin your fellowship search early!

Are you ready to start looking for professional fellowships?

Sign up or log in to profellow.com to access our free fellowship database! Once logged in to the [database](#), use the left-hand filter "Type" to select "Professional" and/or "Summer Fellowships". You can also use the filters and keyword search to further refine the results by discipline, citizenship requirements, location and years of work experience required.