

PAUL & DAISY
SOROS
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
NEW AMERICANS

OGFA Info Session
March 22, 2022

What is PD Soros?

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans:

- Honors the contributions of **immigrants and children of immigrants** to the United States.
- Is aimed at New Americans who are **poised to make significant contributions** to US society, culture or their academic field.
- Provides **up to \$90,000 in financial support** over two years.
- **Creates a community** of more than 700 New American Fellows.

History of PD Soros

Paul and Daisy Soros, Hungarian immigrants and American philanthropists, established their Fellowship program for New Americans—immigrants and children of immigrants—in December of 1997 with a charitable trust of fifty million dollars. They created the program as a way to give back to the country that had afforded their family such great opportunities.

Mr. and Mrs. Soros decided on a fellowship program because it allowed them to assist young New Americans at critical points in their educations, which they felt was an unmet need. They also wished to call attention to the extensive and diverse contributions of New Americans to the quality of life in the United States.

In 2010, Mr. and Mrs. Soros contributed an additional twenty-five million to the charitable trust that funds their Fellowships for New Americans.

In its 23-year history, The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans has built **a community of more than 700 immigrants and children of immigrants**. The Fellowship has supported **New Americans with heritage in 89 countries**.

Why Apply?

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans is a prestigious, competitive, unique, and generous fellowship program.

- Uniquely geared toward recognizing and supporting “New Americans”
- A prestigious “30 under 30” competition
- \$90,000 in support over two-year period, with no limits on stacking multiple awards
- Open to wide range of disciplines/degree programs
- A focus on community, connection, and fellowship

Eligibility: New American Status

To be eligible, your birth parents must have both been born outside of the US as non-US citizens, and both parents must not have been eligible for US citizenship at the time of their births.

Eligible categories include:

- **US citizen by birth** (and both of your parents were born abroad as non-US citizens)
- **Naturalized Citizen**
- **Born abroad and adopted** (subsequently awarded US citizenship)
- **Green Card holder/permanent resident**
- **Refugee/Asylee** (granted US asylum or refugee status)

Eligibility: New American Status

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- **If None of the Other Categories Above Apply:** If none of the other categories apply to you and you were **born abroad but graduated from both high school and college in the US** (this includes current and past DACA recipients).

If you were raised by only one of your birth parents, the following must be true:

- The parent who raised you must have been born abroad as a non-US citizen.
- Your second birth parent was not part of your life growing up and you have no contact with them.

Eligibility: Academic Standing & Age

- The Fellowship is **open to all fields of study** in fully accredited **full-time** graduate and professional degree programs.
- **Rising seniors and current graduate students are eligible.** Graduate students must not have begun third year of study by the application deadline (Oct. 2022)
- Fully online graduate programs are not eligible, but **any program that is intended to be an in-person program** under regular circumstances **is still eligible** for Fellowship funding, regardless of whether it is fully online during the pandemic.
- Age: **All students must be 30 or younger as of the application deadline.** To be eligible for the 2023 Fellowship, you must not have reached or passed your 31st birthday as of the 2022 application deadline.

Application Components

The application includes the following sections:

- Demographic and contact information
- Educational history
- The graduate program for which you seek support*
- **Recommendations (3 required, up to 5 accepted)**



A Guide to PD Soros
Recommendations

PD Soros Recommendations: A Guide
for Applicants

Looking for more information about recommendations? Learn from
our 2016 Fellows and the Paul & Daisy Soros staff.

[READ MORE](#)

Application Components

The application includes the following sections:

- **Required submissions:**
 - Resume (typically 2 pages, but can be longer)
 - **two essays** (“New American” and “Graduate Plans”)
 - Transcripts (unofficial, undergraduate and graduate)
 - Scores of standardized tests (only if required for admission to graduate program)
- Optional exhibits*

Application Essays

Essay One - maximum length 1000 words

“Tell us about **your experiences as a New American**. Whether as an immigrant yourself, or as a child of immigrants, how have your experiences as a New American informed and shaped who you are and your accomplishments?”

Feel free to discuss how individual people (such as family or teachers), institutions, aspects of law, culture, society or American governance made an impact on your life as an immigrant or child of immigrants. The program is interested in understanding the context of your personal, professional, and academic accomplishments.”



Applicant Guide to PD Soros Essay Writing

[READ MORE](#)

Application Essays

Essay Two – maximum length 1000 words

“Tell us about **your current and near-term career-related activities and goals**, as well as why you decided to pursue the specific graduate program(s) and school(s) that you have. How do you see your current work and study informing your early career goals? If you have not been accepted into a program yet, please tell us about why you selected the programs to which you are applying.”

Review Criteria

Primary criteria:

- The candidate has demonstrated ***creativity, originality and initiative*** in one or more aspects of their life.
- The candidate has demonstrated **a commitment to and capacity for accomplishment** that has required drive and **sustained effort**.
- The candidate has demonstrated **a commitment to the values expressed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights**. This would include, but not be limited to, support of human rights and the rule of law, opposition to unwarranted encroachment on personal liberty, and advancing the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.

Review Criteria

Secondary criteria:

- The candidate gives **promise of continued significant contributions**. Those contributions are likely to reflect distinctive creativity, originality and initiative and will mark the candidate as a leading and influential figure within her/his fields of endeavor.
- The candidate's **graduate training is relevant** to their long-term career goals and is of potential value in enhancing her/his future creativity and accomplishment.

Applications are reviewed **holistically** by **non-specialist** reviewers.

Timeline for 2023 Cycle

The application deadline for the 2023 Fellowship has not yet been announced. Last year, the application was due October 28, 2021. Finalists were announced in January 2022.

Interviews occurred in February, with Fellows selected in March/April 2022. **The application for the 2023 fellowship cycle should open in April 2022.**

P.D. Soros Fellows say they **typically spent “a few months” working on the essays**, particularly essay 1.

OGFA suggests that interested applicants for the 2023 Fellowship **begin working on the application by July 1, 2022.**

Resources

OGFA Canvas Course:



P.D. Soros Website:



Resources

OGFA will help you prepare a high quality, competitive application for the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. We can meet to plan application materials, discuss recommenders, and review essay drafts.

To set up a meeting, [click here](#).



Contact Information

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