
Sasakawa Young Leaders Foundation Fellowship (SYLFF) Program for 2026-2027 Academic Year

The Sasakawa Young Leaders Foundation Fellowship (SYLFF) is designed to provide full financial support to outstanding Ph.D. students admitted to candidacy in the Social Science Division with a research concentration in international affairs and/or world peace. The SYLFF fellowship is a merit-based and competitive fellowship offered upon recommendation by the SYLFF Advisory Committee at Howard University.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in the Social Sciences Division with research and career interest in international affairs and/or world peace. Students must be enrolled full-time with a minimum GPA of 3.5.

TERMS

Full tuition and fees and a stipend of \$25,000 for one academic year, renewable for no more than two years. The fellowship also includes a research award of up to \$2,000 over the two-year period (\$500 of the research award may be used for educational supplies, and \$1,500 for dissertation research related travel expenses).

APPLICATION

Candidate: Compile items 1-5 listed below in one PDF file and email it to your department chair no later than **Monday, January 12, 2026**. Have your two recommendation writers send their letters (item 6) directly to the SYLFF office at sylff@howard.edu no later than **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**.

1. **SYLFF Application Form** (Use pages 2-5.)
2. **Curriculum Vitae**
3. **Approved Candidacy Form**
4. **Approved Dissertation Proposal** (No more than 10 single-spaced pages.) If longer than 10 pages, excerpt or summarize to convey the essential points.
5. **Statement** (No more than 3 single-spaced pages) addressing the candidate's research contribution to international affairs and/or world peace and how it would make a difference to society.
6. **Two Letters of Recommendation** (Use pages 6-9.) One from the candidate's major advisor and one from a faculty member at Howard University in the candidate's research area. Have your two recommendation writers send their letters directly to the SYLFF office at sylff@howard.edu no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Department Chair: The candidate's department chair or the director of graduate studies must provide a cover letter endorsing the application. Department Chair must email the complete application packet (Cover letter + Items 1-5) to the SYLFF office at sylff@howard.edu no later than **5 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. Late applications will not be considered. All inquiries are to be addressed to Dr. Mika Kato at sylff@howard.edu.

Sasakawa Young Leaders Foundation Fellowship Application Form

(Please print or type application.)

1. PERSONAL DATA

Name:		I.D. No.:
Address: Street		Apartment
City:	State:	Zip Code
Telephone No:	Email:	
Department:		Major Dissertation Advisor:

2. ACADEMIC STATUS

Course Work Completed: Yes ___ No ___	Passed Qualifying Exam: Yes ___ No ___ Date
Cumulative G.P.A.	Date Admitted to Candidacy

3. RESEARCH STATUS

Dissertation Title:
Briefly describe the current status of your research

4. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Organization and Location	Degree	Year Conferred	Discipline

5. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Present Position: (if applicable)		Length of Employment:
Place of Employment:		
Business Address:		
Telephone:		
Nature of Job Responsibility:		
Previous Position:		Length of Employment:
Place of Employment:		
Address:		
Telephone:		
Nature of Job Responsibility:		

6. PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

(Begin with most recent activity)

7. HONORS AND AWARDS

8. MEMBERSHIP IN LEARNED AND HONOR SOCIETIES

9. OTHER RELEVANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

HOWARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL
SASAKAWA YOUNG LEADERS FELLOWSHIP FUND (SYLFF) AWARD

Appraisal of Application Form

Student's Name _____
 LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

Notes to Recommendation Writer:

- Please use this form; you may, however, submit a separate letter of recommendation attached to this form.
- Please send your appraisal form directly to the SYLFF office at sylff@howard.edu no later than **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE'S MAJOR DISSERTATION ADVISOR

Name _____

Title _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please rate the applicant on the following scales in comparison to other doctoral candidates you have known.

	<i>No Basis for Judgment</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
		<i>Lowest 35%</i>	<i>Middle 20%</i>	<i>Next 20%</i>	<i>Next 15%</i>	<i>Highest 10%</i>
<i>Intellectual Capability: Analytical Power Rigor of Thought Critical Facility Reasoning Ability</i>						
<i>Independence of Thought: Originality Imagination Creative Intelligence</i>						
<i>Effectiveness of Communication: Oral</i>						
<i>Effectiveness of Communication: Written</i>						
<i>Industry and Motivation: Persistence Self-Discipline Study Techniques</i>						
<i>Judgment and Maturity: Conscientiousness Common Sense</i>						
<i>Research Skills and Ability</i>						

CERTIFICATION OF RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

Provide a brief statement of the applicant's research progress to date:

Based on this summary, in your estimation, will the applicant complete this dissertation by the end of the next academic year? **Yes** **No**

Signature

Department

Name and Title
(Please Print or Type)

Date

HOWARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL
SASAKAWA YOUNG LEADERS FELLOWSHIP FUND (SYLFF) AWARD

Appraisal of Application Form

Student's Name _____
 LAST NAME FIRST MIDDLE

Notes to Recommendation Writer:

- Please use this form; you may, however, submit a separate letter of recommendation attached to this form.
- Please send your appraisal form directly to the SYLFF office at sylff@howard.edu no later than **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**..

TO BE COMPLETED BY A FACULTY MEMBER AT HOWARD OTHER THAN THE STUDENT'S MAJOR ADVISOR

Name _____

Title _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Specify relationship to applicant _____

Please rate the applicant on the following scales in comparison to other doctoral candidates you have known.

	<i>No Basis for Judgment</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
		<i>Lowest 35%</i>	<i>Middle 20%</i>	<i>Next 20%</i>	<i>Next 15%</i>	<i>Highest 10%</i>
<i>Intellectual Capability: Analytical Power Rigor of Thought Critical Facility Reasoning Ability</i>						
<i>Independence of Thought: Originality Imagination Creative Intelligence</i>						
<i>Effectiveness of Communication: Oral</i>						
<i>Effectiveness of Communication: Written</i>						
<i>Industry and Motivation: Persistence Self-Discipline Study Techniques</i>						
<i>Judgment and Maturity: Conscientiousness Common Sense</i>						
<i>Research Skills and Ability</i>						

In the space provided below, please make comments regarding the applicant's special interests, motivations, personal qualities, academic background, accomplishments and promise as a professional and a scholar.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION:
Below Average Recommendation
Average Recommendation
Good Recommendation
Very Good Recommendation
Outstanding Recommendation

Signature

Department

Name and Title
(Please Print or Type)

Date