

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ABF SUMMER DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

I will not have completed my sophomore year by the application deadline, but I will by the time the fellowship begins. Can I still apply?

Yes, to meet application requirements you must have completed either your sophomore or junior year of undergraduate studies at the time the fellowship begins. You do not have to have completed your sophomore by the application deadline.

What is considered a complete application?

A complete application will have three parts. The first is the application form itself, which includes two essays. The second part is official transcripts of all academic courses completed at the time of application. To be considered official, the transcripts must come directly from the registrar, or must come from the registrar and remain sealed if sent with the application packet by the applicant. The third part is a letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with the student's work. This must be sent directly to the ABF by the recommender, or the recommender must seal and sign the flap of the envelope if the letter is sent with the application packet by the applicant. All pieces of the application must be received by the posted deadline in the format requested in order to be considered.

Is this an annual opportunity?

Yes, this fellowship is offered on an annual basis. Application information and materials, including due dates, are updated in the fall and can be accessed through the ABF Web site, www.americanbarfoundation.org.

Do you have to be from Chicago to apply?

No, we accept applications from any student who meets the posted application criteria. Transportation to and from Chicago to participate in the program is provided.

Is housing provided?

Yes, housing for the students is provided by the ABF. Other living expenses are not provided, but students do receive a stipend.

What is the stipend payment schedule?

The stipend is split into two payments throughout the duration of the fellowship, usually at the beginning and the halfway point.

What are the dates of the fellowship?

The dates are not set until the fellowship selections are made as we try to work with the schedules of the chosen summer fellows. Generally, the fellowship begins in early to mid-June and lasts 8 weeks.

How many are chosen each year? How many usually apply?

Four students are chosen annually. The number of applicants varies from year to year; last year we received approximately 100 completed applications.

What does the fellowship entail?

There are two main elements to the fellowship. One element is the research assistance and other work Summer Fellows do with their assigned mentors. The second element consists of field visits and seminars that expose the summer fellows to career options in the fields of law and social science.