

INSTITUTE FOR

Justice and Journalism

Immigration in the Heartland Fellowships

Application Guidelines

The Institute for Justice and Journalism (IJJ), in partnership with the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, will award up to 15 fellowships to journalists aiming to write or broadcast on the complexities of immigration with clarity, depth and context. The program is funded by a grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

The program will include discussions with experts, field reporting and professional workshops, beginning in Oklahoma on Saturday, April 10, and ending in Texas on Friday, April 16.

Those selected as Fellows will be expected to participate in online activities before and after the activities in Oklahoma and Texas. As part of this application process, journalists are required to submit their proposals for projects to be carried out relating to immigration in the nation's heartland.

In addition to publication or broadcast in the Fellows' designated outlets, the completed work will be featured on IJJ's Web site (www.justnews.org).

Travel-related and professional development expenses for the Fellows will be covered, thanks to the grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. IJJ also will award a \$500 stipend to each selected Fellow to help cover project reporting expenses.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents working in the U.S.

All journalists – traditional and nontraditional – reporting stories or writing commentary for print, television, radio or online distribution are eligible to apply. Applications are welcome from independent journalists, including bloggers and other online content producers, as well as those employed by news outlets. Students are not eligible.

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

From April 10 to April 14 at the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the selected Fellows will participate in conferences and field reporting, and then travel to Dallas the afternoon of April 14 to observe federal immigration court sessions on April 15. Following a wrap-up session the morning of April 16, they will depart from Dallas to their destinations.

At OU's Gaylord College, they will meet with immigration experts, officials, attorneys and advocates. Varied field reporting experiences will give the journalists on-the-ground perspectives about immigration issues in Oklahoma. The Fellows will also take part in workshops on digital tools for gathering and distributing information and on journalistic ethics issues in immigration coverage.

SELECTION OF FELLOWS

The selection committee will consider applicants' professional accomplishments, individual or organizational commitment to the aims of the program, plus the quality of the story project proposal.

Applicants will be notified of the committee's decisions by the end of February 2010.

TERMS

IJJ and the Gaylord College will provide the educational sessions, lodging and meals and will cover other travel-related expenses for the participants in fellowship activities.

Fellows are expected to:

- Participate fully in all scheduled activities, and designated online offerings.
- Complete fellowship project stories or commentary and a "Story Behind the Story."
- Commit to remaining involved with IJJ and sharing what they have learned with colleagues and others.

Fellows' news organizations are expected to:

- Publish or air fellowship project stories that meet their standards.
- Provide time off for Fellows to participate in the activities scheduled for April 2010 in Oklahoma and Texas.
- Agree to re-publication or broadcast of the stories by IJJ across multiple media (print, broadcast, radio, online).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. Applications may be mailed or hand delivered. No e-mailed, faxed or late applications will be accepted.

MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION:

- 1. Completed Application Form**
Download application form as a PDF or Word (fillable) at www.justnews.org.
- 2. Current Resume**
A resume including details of your work history and educational background.
- 3. Fellowship Proposal Essay**
For your fellowship project, what aspect of immigration in the nation's heartland would you like to cover through story or commentary? Also include a self-assessment of your journalistic work so far and what you would expect to gain from this fellowship experience. **Do not exceed 600 words.**
- 4. Work Samples**
Three relevant samples of your work that demonstrate your journalistic abilities. For work published or broadcast in a language other than English, also provide a short summary in English for each sample submitted.

Print journalists: Clippings must be dated and legible. Mount entries or photocopies on 8½" by 11" paper (oversized copies will be discarded). Do not bind or embellish entries.

Broadcast journalists: CDs or DVDs with examples of your work. Total viewing or listening time should be no longer than 30 minutes. Include a brief, typed description of the work with the production date.

Online journalists: The URL for each submitted sample of your work, along with a printed or typed description and its initial posting date.

Photojournalists: Up to 8 images of your work may be submitted, along with a short printed or typed caption or description of each image. Copies of prints or CDs are acceptable.

5. Letter(s) of Recommendation

For members of a news staff: A letter from the applicant's employer endorsing the application, and committing to publish/broadcast the story/stories produced as part of the fellowship program.

For independent journalists: Letters of recommendation from two people who are familiar with the applicant's professional work.

To ensure the consideration of your application, please include one original PLUS 3 copies (4 sets total) of the application form and all materials.

Application materials will not be returned.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Complete application packet must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

Please send your completed application to:

Paula Hewitt
c/o OU, Gaylord College of Journalism
395 W. Lindsey, Suite 3000
Norman, OK 73019-4201

Questions may be directed via email to ijj@justnews.org.