

THE RAVEN FELLOWSHIP

2012 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I submit my application?

Please submit all applications to Kelly Hondula's mailbox in the Environmental Sciences Department office (Clark Hall) by 5 pm on February 17, 2011. Applications may also be mailed to Kelly Hondula at: Department of Environmental Sciences, Clark Hall, 291 McCormick Road, P.O. Box 400123, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4123, but they will need to arrive by February 17, 2011. Completed applications will be acknowledged by email.

How will I know that my application has been received?

Completed applications will be acknowledged by email.

What happens after I submit my application?

A committee, composed of both student and faculty Raven Society members, will read all the applications and convene to select 10–12 applicants to interview in early March. After each candidate has completed an interview, the committee will reconvene to select the award recipients. Please be aware that you will need to be able to respond to the invitation to interview promptly in order to continue in the application process.

How do I collate the confidential letters of recommendation?

Ask the faculty member to provide eight copies of the letter of recommendation in eight individually sealed envelopes.

I'm in my final year of studies, may I apply?

Yes, any student at the University of Virginia may apply for funding.

Do I need to be a member of the Raven Society to apply?

No, any student may apply.

I am a member of the Raven Society, may I apply?

Yes, members of the Raven Society may apply for funding. They will receive no special consideration.

I received a Raven Fellowship in a previous year, may I apply again?

Yes, previous winners may apply again. They will receive no special consideration.

I am working on a research project with one or more partners. May we apply jointly?

Yes, we welcome joint applications. Each of the eight copies of the application packet should include one copy of the cover sheet (taking care to include everyone's names and contact information), project budget, and project statement, but CVs, unofficial transcripts, and up to two letters of recommendation for each member of the group. Please note that we can only offer \$2,500 total to each group.

May I travel to a country for which the State Department has issued a travel warning?

No, the Fellowship cannot be used to fund research in countries for which the State Department has issued a travel warning. All international projects need to be cleared with the International Studies Office (www.virginia.edu/iso) before funding can be distributed.

May I apply for other awards and other sources of funding?

Yes, the Raven Society encourages all applicants to seek other sources of funding for their projects, as we can only offer up to \$2,500 per project, and can only fund four to six projects a year. Please indicate if you have applied for other potential sources of funding in your application. If you should receive additional funding after you have turned in your application, please inform the Fellowships Chair and submit an updated copy of your budget.

May I apply for funding to attend a conference?

No, the Fellowship funds original research only.

May I apply for funding to take a class?

No, the Fellowship funds original research only.

If my project involves human subjects, do I need IRB approval?

Yes, all projects that involve human subjects need IRB approval prior to the distribution of funds.

May I submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member from another university?

At least one letter of recommendation must be from the UVa. faculty member who will supervise your work and who has signed off on your budget. The optional, second letter of recommendation may come from a faculty member at another university.

Can I receive feedback on why my application was rejected?

No, due to the high volume of applications and to the confidential nature of the committee's discussions, unfortunately we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

What does a successful project look like?

Raven Fellowships support all types of research across the globe. Successful applications often have detailed budgets, with other potential sources of funding either in place or in progress. Although our list of recent projects reflects a focus on international projects, the new focus for projects is novel interdisciplinary work.

If I am awarded a fellowship, what responsibilities do I have to the Raven Society?

The Raven Society asks that all winners present their research to interested colleagues and members of the Raven Society. The fellowship recipient in conjunction with the Raven Fellowships Chair will determine the method of presentation. Recipients will also be asked to prepare a poster for display at the annual Raven banquet in April 2013.

How can I find out more?

Please contact Kelly Hondula, Chair of the Fellowships Committee at klh4h@virginia.edu