

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Jefferson Fellowships

1. **My media organization cannot provide any additional financial support. Do I have to turn in the Employer's Statement of Support?** Yes. This is required regardless of whether your media organization is providing support.
2. **Can applicants from Europe, Africa or other areas outside of the Asia Pacific countries listed (see list on the website) apply?** Program funding is only for citizens of the countries indicated on the list on the website. We welcome others to apply if they are able to provide their own funding. If you are interested in this option, please fill out a second version of the Employer Statement of Support indicating this and letting us know how you intend to fund your participation.
3. **Can college students apply?** No. The program is only for working journalists. Master's and PhD students who are working full time while pursuing their degrees are eligible.
4. **Is an editor eligible to apply?** Yes.
5. **Is the program open to freelance journalists?** Yes. Freelance journalists must still provide a letter of reference on official letterhead, preferably from a media organization that regularly publishes or airs your work. Freelancers must also submit the Employer Statement of Support form. Please write "Freelancer" for employer name.
6. **Can we waive the \$800?** No. We encourage individuals and organizations unable to afford the \$800 program fee to look for fund-raising options. Applicants who are not sure how they will get the funds, but are committed to fundraising are encouraged to apply, but should indicate that they are looking for funding. A short window of time will be provided to find funding once invitations are extended.
7. **Can an applicant with only 2 1/2 years of journalism experience apply?** Yes. The five years of experience is a preference, not a firm requirement.
8. **Is the program open to those in public relations for governments or NGOs, especially if I write and publish publications for those organizations?** No. Typically only journalists working for news media organizations are accepted. If the employer is a government or NGO and not a media outlet, these candidates are not eligible.
9. **I am a citizen of a European or African country but live in Asia or the US and work full time for an Asian or US media organization. Am I eligible?** No. The funding is limited to individuals with citizenship in Asia Pacific countries or the United States.
10. **I am a citizen of Asia Pacific or the United States, but I am working outside of my home country. Am I eligible?** Yes. If you are working in an eligible Asia Pacific country or the US, you are eligible. Those working in countries outside of the Asia Pacific-US region are eligible but will not be strong candidates.
11. **I am a career journalist but am currently not working. Am I eligible?** It depends. There may be circumstances when such candidates are eligible, but typically journalists between jobs or on an educational or other kind of extended leave will not be strong candidates.
12. **Can former Jefferson Fellows apply?** No. You cannot be a Jefferson Fellow twice.