



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS
DYNAMIC LANGUAGE INFRASTRUCTURE - DOCUMENTING ENDANGERED
LANGUAGES FELLOWSHIPS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
(Updated July 5, 2023)

A. Program Description

1. Can I apply if the language I study is dormant, moribund, or merely threatened?

Yes, but you need to discuss in the narrative of your application the grade of intergenerational disruption the language has experienced. You also need to discuss the level of endangerment of the language, the urgency of documentation and analysis, and any points you want to make about the language's linguistic, historical, cognitive, cultural, or social significance.

2. Are endangered dialects of a language eligible in this program?

Yes. You need to discuss the significance of documenting and studying those dialects in the narrative of the application. Check [recently-funded Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships](#) to get an idea about the kind of projects that have been funded in the past.

3. I am an international student who has been studying linguistics in the United States for the past three years. Am I eligible to apply for the DLI-DEL fellowship?

No, you are not. Students are not eligible to apply for the fellowship. If you have satisfied *all* the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral, you are eligible, but you must include a letter from your department chair or the dean of conferring school attesting to your status as of the application deadline.

In addition, only American citizens who reside inside or outside the United States (i.e., in another country) and legal residents who have resided in the United States for *three consecutive years* are eligible to apply. International applicants are not eligible to apply, regardless of their qualifications and training.

If you've been living in the US for the past three years on a student or work visa, you're not eligible to apply.

4. May I apply for an award lasting less than six months or more than twelve months?

The period of performance for Documenting Endangered Language Fellowships ranges from six to twelve months full time, or from twelve to twenty-four months part time. Recipients may work between half time and full time, or a combination, but must always devote at least 50% of their time to the project. If you need a break during the period of performance you can split the term into two separate active periods, each of which must be at least three months in duration and involve at least 50% of your time. Here are some examples:

- If you propose a six-month fellowship, you could work on your research full time for three months in the summer, teach in the fall and spring, then return to your research full time for the remaining three months next summer.
- If you want to work on your project for 12 months in combination of full time and part time, you could start full time in the summer (May-July; three months full time) then continue working on your project half time in the fall (August-December; 5 months part time). You could take a break in the next semester, start again full time next summer (May-July; 3 months full time) and continue working on your project half time until you wrap up your work at the end of February (August-February; 5 months part time). The entire period of performance would be equivalent to 12 full-time months, and you'd finish working on your project within 2 years of the start month.

Part- or full-time	Months	Full-time equivalent
Full time 100%	May, June, July	3 months
Half time 50%	August-December	2 1/2 months
Break	January-April	
Full time 100%	May, June, July	3 months
Half time 50%	August-February	3 1/2 months

The entire period of performance, including an optional break, must not exceed twenty-four months.

During any full-time fellowship periods, you must devote 100% of your time to your project and not take on teaching or other professional obligations. For part-time fellowships, you must devote at least 50% of your time to your project. Adjunct faculty or other contractual staff cannot devote less than 20 hours per week, or the equivalent, to their project during the active award period.

5. May I change the period of performance of my fellowship if I receive an award?

Yes. You will be able to specify the start date of your fellowship after you have been offered an award. This date can differ from the date specified in your application, but it must conform to the start dates specified in section B2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You may also shorten (but not lengthen) your period of performance; all periods of performance must be at least six months.

6. I noticed that the NSF also has a DLI-DEL program. May I apply to both?

DLI-DEL Fellowships are designed for individual researchers, whereas the NSF-run component of the DLI-DEL partnership is for institutional applicants. You may apply to both, but if

awarded both, there cannot be overlapping costs or activities (i.e., your time cannot be covered by both a fellowship and the institutional grant). If you plan to work part time on your fellowship and you also work on a project supported by NSF as either a project director or participant, your activities must not exceed your regular, full-time load, across all projects and activities (including non-NEH/NSF work activities).

If you are seeking funds for more than one researcher for the same project, each person must submit a separate DLI-DEL Fellowship application specifying their individual contribution. Peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merits. Each application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each researcher's contribution depends on that of the other(s).

Collaborating scholars affiliated with an eligible institution should consider applying for a [Senior Research Grant](#) through the DLI-DEL program offered by NSF in collaboration with NEH's Division of Preservation & Access.

7. May I apply for a DLI-DEL Fellowship if my project was previously supported by a DLI-DEL institutional grant?

Yes, but in such a case, NEH will review the accomplishments from the previous award to determine whether the project warrants additional funding. If the current application includes work proposed in the previously funded award, this overlap in the work plans must be addressed in the narrative of the application.

8. I don't have a PhD in Linguistics, but I have a lot of experience in endangered language documentation. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, but you will need to discuss your experience, training, and similar qualifications in the application narrative and in your résumé so that reviewers may determine your aptitude to undertake the proposed research project. You will need to solicit one letter of reference from a scholar familiar with the language(s) of your project who can provide an assessment of the writing sample that you are submitting with your application. If your research is on-site with speaker communities, you will need to submit a letter from the relevant community that expresses support for your specific work.

9. Does NEH support projects whose results will be written in a language other than English?

Yes, but you must provide a rationale for products that will be written in a language other than English. The application itself must be written in English.

B. Application and Submission Information

1. How important is the format of the application (including appendices)?

Applications must follow the format provided in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. **Applications that violate the format instructions, including page limits and formatting, will not be considered.**

2. What help is available for preparing the application?

NEH staff is available to answer questions about preparing your application and about your eligibility. The staff may be reached at (202) 606-8200 and at delfel@neh.gov.

NEH staff will review your draft narrative (up to three pages), work plan (one page only), and appendices. Drafts should be submitted to delfel@neh.gov; put “NEH - DLI-DEL Draft Narrative” in the subject line of the message.

If you choose to submit a draft narrative, you must do so by the deadline given in D4. Submission Dates and Times in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and use the format stipulated in D2. Content and Form of Application Submission. Program staff will not review late drafts and will read only one draft per individual per deadline.

NEH staff will email you their comments and suggestions within four weeks of the deadline. The comments provided by staff are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the evaluation of the application, but previous applicants have found them helpful in strengthening their applications. Applicants are not required to submit a draft.

You are encouraged to review the list of recent awards on the program resource page, and the posted sample narratives, available on the [landing page](#) for the fellowship (scroll down the page, then look at the left-side of the page under “Sample Application Narratives”).

3. Is it possible to extend the deadline?

No. Late applications will not be reviewed, except in the rare cases covered by [NEH Policy on Late Submissions](#).

4. What technical support is available if I have trouble using Grants.gov or submitting the application?

Grants.gov operates a help desk. You can request technical support by sending email to support@grants.gov or calling 1-800-518-4726

C. Application Review Information

1. How will my application be reviewed?

All applications receive peer review. More details about NEH’s review process are available at E2. of the Notice of Funding Opportunity and here: [NEH's Application Review Process](#).

2. I applied for a fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

NEH encourages previous applicants to reapply and does not inform reviewers that an application was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different

reviewers from year to year. However, applicants may wish to revise their proposals, especially after consulting reviewers' comments.