



MERAGE FOUNDATION
FOR THE
AMERICAN DREAM

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4350 Von Karman Avenue, Fourth Floor
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Application for Merage Foundation Fellows Program, 2006-2007

Overview

We are pleased that you are applying to become a Merage American Dream Fellow. Initially, your application will be reviewed by your university. Each of the Foundation's Partner Universities may nominate up to three students for the Merage Foundation Fellows Program.

Members of the Foundation's National Advisory Board then interview partner universities' nominees. The Foundation may also interview candidates. The final selection of Merage American Dream Fellows, based on their applications and interviews, is made by the Foundation. Selected students are awarded \$10,000 per year for two years. Fellows use their stipends to pursue educational opportunities; to travel for research and professional development; to secure mentors; to support internships, etc.—in other words, to pursue the American Dream described in their application and interviews.

In addition to receiving stipends, Merage American Dream Fellows attend the Foundation's annual National Awards Luncheon, where they meet the previous year's Fellows along with leaders in business, science, education, the public sector, etc. They are also able to attend the Foundation's National Forums on immigration. Besides these excellent opportunities, Fellows receive networking support and mentoring from the Foundation throughout their careers.

Criteria for Nomination and Selection

Students applying for the Fellows Program must be immigrants to the United States. They must either have become a citizen since coming to the United States or hold a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card). Students who are not yet citizens must indicate their intent to become United States citizens.

Students must complete the application and submit it to their university by their university's internal deadline for receiving Merage Fellowship applications (students should check with their university's scholarship office). The university will make its nominations and submit them to the Foundation by December 15, 2006. Interviews of nominated students will occur during January and the month of February. They may occur face-to-face at a location convenient to the student and the interviewer, by videoconference, or by telephone. The Foundation selects Fellows by March 31.

University nominees must have finished three full years of undergraduate work and be full-time seniors at the time of their nomination. The university should anticipate that nominees will graduate by the summer of 2007.

Nominees must have a solid academic record, a clear track record of leadership, a commitment to hard work and excellence, creativity and initiative, and consistent ethical behavior. Students nominated by partner universities must evince a strong desire to contribute to America and demonstrate a clear set of American Dream objectives and strategies concerning achieving leadership positions in at least one of the following areas: business, culture, the arts, science, education, or public service.

Complete and submit this application to your university.

Contact Information. Please type or print legibly.

First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



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1. Immigration Status. (The Foundation will need documentation of your immigration status.)

a. Are you a naturalized citizen? Yes No

If your answer is yes, when did you become a citizen? _____

b. If you are not a citizen, do you have a Permanent Resident Card? Yes No

c. If you are not a citizen, do you intend to become a citizen? Yes No

If yes, when? _____

d. What country were you born in? _____

e. How long have you been in the United States? _____

2. Activities prior to attending your university

a. If you came to the United States before you began attending this university, please respond to the following:

Did you attend high school in the United States? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please submit your high school grade point average and, if available, your class rank.

High school grade point average: _____ High school class ranking: _____

b. Did you work while you were attending high school? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please identify the jobs and the hours you worked per week while attending high school:

c. Was it necessary for you to work to contribute to your family's income, or did you work primarily to support yourself?

Family Income Support self

Please explain: _____

d. Were you active in your community (e.g. leader or participant in a community organization)? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please identify the organization or organizations and your role or activities:



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3. Your University Experience

a. What is your present major at your university? _____

b. Have you changed your major while you have been at the university? Yes No

If you have changed majors, please indicate your previous major or majors:

c. Have you worked while attending the university? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please describe your job or jobs (e.g. where and when you worked, number of hours per week that you worked, your job responsibilities).

d. Have you been active in on-campus or non-campus organizations while at this university? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please describe which ones:

e. Have you been an elected or appointed leader in on-campus or non-campus organizations? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please identify which offices you have held in each organization, your responsibilities, and during what period of time: _____

f. Have you taken time off since your admission to this university? Yes No

If your answer is yes, please briefly explain why:



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Supporting Materials. Please attach your answers to questions 1-3 below as well as the additional materials listed on this page to the application form in the order indicated.

1. Your Journey to Becoming an American

Please describe in 250 words or less what motivated you and/or your family to come to the United States and your journey to becoming an American.

2. Your Future Desire to Contribute to America

Please describe in 250 words or less your desires to contribute and the kinds of contributions you wish to make to America.

3. Your American Dream (Objectives and Strategies)

Please describe, in 1000 words or less, your goals—your American Dream—with respect to achieving leadership positions in one of the following areas of concern: business, culture and the arts, science or education, or public service. Your description should discuss the strategies you intend to use to achieve your goals. It also should discuss how you would use the Merage Foundation stipend to attain your goals. Please provide a general two-year budget indicating how you would spend the stipend of \$10,000 per year for two years.

4. Transcripts

Please provide a transcript of your university grades from all institutions you have attended your freshman through your junior year.

5. Letters of Recommendation

Please provide at least three letters of recommendation with the completed application. Letters should call attention to your academic accomplishments, your leadership abilities, your creativity and initiative, your adherence to ethical behavior, etc. Two of the letters should be written by faculty members; additional letters may be written by university administrators, employers, or leaders in the community.

6. Immigration Status

Please provide the Foundation with documentation of your immigration status (photocopies of permanent resident card, passports, etc.)

Students must complete the application and submit it to their university by their university's internal deadline for receiving Merage Fellowship applications (students should check with their university's scholarship office).

If you have questions concerning this application, please contact:

Erik Lee
Program Officer, Merage Foundation for the American Dream
Tel. (949) 474-5883, elee@meragefoundations.com