



MERAGE FOUNDATION
FOR THE
AMERICAN DREAM

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Application for Merage Foundation Fellows Program, 2009-2010

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 select 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 may 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, new Merage American Dream Fellows attend the Foundation's annual National Leadership Awards Dinner in June,* 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 events on immigration. Besides these excellent opportunities, Fellows receive networking support and mentoring from the Foundation throughout their careers.

**The Foundation requests that all selected 2010 Fellows attend the annual National Leadership Awards Dinner in early June (date and location to be announced) and will arrange for the lodging and travel reimbursements.*

Complete and submit this application to your university by your university's internal deadline.

Please type your contact information:

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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 submit a completed application to the appropriate office at their university by the deadline established by their university. The university will make its nominations and submit them to the Foundation arriving no later than **5pm on Friday, December 4, 2009**. Interviews of select nominated students will occur during January and 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 in late March or early April.

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 2010.

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 demonstrate a clear set of American Dream objectives and strategies concerning achieving leadership positions in at least one of the following career areas: business, culture, the arts, science, education, or public service. They must also evince a strong desire to contribute to America.

Please type your answers to the following questions and attach additional pages if necessary:

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

- a. What country were you born in? _____
- b. At what age and in what year did you arrive in the United States? _____
- c. What is your citizenship status? Naturalized Citizen Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder)
- d. if applicable, when did you/do you plan to become a citizen? _____

2. Activities Prior to Attending University

- a. Did you attend high school in the United States? Yes No
- b. What was your high school GPA and class ranking? GPA: _____ Class ranking: _____
- c. Did you work while you were attending high school? Yes No
If so, please identify the jobs and the hours you worked per week while attending high school:

3. Your University Experience

- a. What are your present overall university GPA, major(s), & minor(s)? Cumulative GPA: _____
Major(s): _____ Minor(s): _____
- b. Did you transfer from a community college? Yes. College name: _____ No
- c. Have you worked while attending the university? Yes No
If so, please describe your job(s) (e.g. where and when you worked, hours per week, job responsibilities):

- d. Have you been active in on-campus or non-campus organizations while at the university? Yes No
If so, please describe which ones:

- e. Have you been an elected or appointed leader in on-campus or non-campus organizations? Yes No
If so, please identify which offices you have held, your responsibilities, and during what period of time:

4. Your Future Plans

- a. Have you already been accepted to a graduate school, internship, etc? If so, which one(s): Yes No

Please attach the following additional materials to your application in the order indicated:

1. Narrative (Objectives and Strategies)

In first person, please answer the following questions in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and in narrative form on a separate sheet of paper. Answers in totality should not exceed 1500 words. In sequential order, use the following subtitles to separate your answers and respond to the questions specific to that section. Please note, special attention will be given to the clarity and description of your American Dream.

I. Immigration Story

Discuss what motivated you and/or your family to come to the United States (your immigration story), some of your key experiences on your journey to becoming a citizen. Be succinct and brief in this section

II. American Dream

Write a clear description of your American Dream with respect to achieving leadership positions in one of the following specific areas of concern: public service, business, culture and the arts, science or education. Describe the kinds of contributions you wish to make to the country. Please summarize strategies you intend to use to achieve your career objectives and to assure your ability to contribute to America.

2. Budget

Please provide a line-item budget indicating how you would spend the stipend of \$10,000 per year for two years. You may also briefly state how you would use the Merage Foundation stipend to attain your goals.

3. Summary of Your Proposal

Please give a brief synopsis (300 words maximum) of your proposal that includes the following:

- Your name
- Your university and major
- Your country of origin
- When you arrived in the United States
- The reason(s) for immigrating to the United States
- Your American Dream (your career objectives, your desire to contribute to America)
- Specifically how you would use the American Dream Fellowship funds

4. Transcripts

Please provide a transcript of your university grades from all institutions you have attended your freshman through junior years. For transfer students: If your courses and grades from previous institutions appear on your current transcript, no additional transcripts are needed.

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. Recommenders should send their letters to the university.

6. Immigration Status

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

7. Resume (Optional)

Application Deadline

If nominated, the university will forward all of the documents stated above together with the student's application to the Foundation arriving no later than 5pm on Friday, December 4, 2009.

Contact Information

If you have any questions concerning this application, please contact:
Yesenia Velez Ochoa, Program Officer, Merage Foundation for the American Dream at
(949) 474-5883, or yochoa@meragefoundations.com