

Title VIII Research Scholarships at the Kennan Institute

Please see the following pages for information about the Kennan Institute Title VIII Research Scholarships and how to apply.

Deadline	Notification
January 15	Early March

Title VIII Research Scholarship applications should be sent by email to kennan@wilsoncenter.org.

Please send scanned, signed recommendation letters via email to kennan@wilsoncenter.org.

For more information, please contact us:

- Telephone: (202) 691-4100
- E-mail: kennan@wilsoncenter.org
- Web: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/kennan-institute>

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE

“I found conversations with other scholars at the Institute extremely valuable. These chats happened mostly informally and were that much more inspiring. Without the casual interactions encouraged by the Kennan Institute, this would not have been possible.”

—Lucia Seybert, December 2013–August 2014

The Kennan Institute was founded in December 1974 as a division of the Wilson Center through the joint initiative of Ambassador George F. Kennan, then Wilson Center Director James Billington, and historian S. Frederick Starr. The Wilson Center, the nation’s official memorial to President Wilson, was established by legislation in 1968. The Center is an international, interdisciplinary scholarly institute which fosters scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and encourages dialogue between the disciplines and the professions. The director of the Kennan Institute reports to the director of the Wilson Center and receives guidance from the Kennan Institute Advisory Council.

Named in honor of Ambassador Kennan’s relative, George Kennan “the Elder,” a nineteenth-century explorer of Russia and Siberia, the Kennan Institute is committed to improving American expertise and knowledge about Russia and the former Soviet Union. It is one of several area studies programs of the Wilson Center. The Institute offers residential research scholarships in the humanities and social sciences to academic scholars and specialists from government, the media, and the private sector. An international peer-review competition ensures that the Institute promotes the most creative research in the field. All Fellows, together with Senior, Public Policy, Fulbright-KI Research, Title VIII Research, Title VIII Summer Research and Short-term Scholars work at the Kennan Institute for the duration of their fellowships. Thanks to its location in Washington, D.C., the Institute provides its scholars with access to libraries, archives, research facilities, and human resources that are among the finest available in the United States.

In addition to its residential scholar programs, the Institute also administers an active program of public lectures featuring scholars and public figures from America, Russia, and other countries in Eurasia. In order to extend the benefits of its residential scholar and public lecture programs, the Institute makes the results of its activities known in a variety of publications, including Kennan Cables and commercially published books. The majority of Kennan Institute publications are available on the website.

The Kennan Institute, as part of the Wilson Center, is a non-partisan institution that values its independence from the world of politics. Unlike most academic research centers, however, it seeks to promote dialogue between academic specialists and policymakers. To this end, the Institute brings scholars and governmental specialists together to discuss political, social, and economic issues affecting Russia, Ukraine, and the other countries of Eurasia, seeking always to place these issues within their historical context.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Title VIII Research Scholarships lasting three to nine months are available to academic participants in the early stages of their career (before tenure) or scholars whose careers have been interrupted or delayed. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected. Eligibility is limited to the postdoctoral level for academic participants, although doctoral candidates in the process of completing a dissertation may apply (the dissertation must be successfully defended before taking residence at the Kennan Institute). Research proposals examining Russia, Ukraine, and the countries of Eurasia are eligible. **Awards are limited to scholars who are U.S. citizens.**

STIPEND

The Research Scholar grant offers a stipend of \$3,750 per month. Scholars are also provided access to research facilities, computer support, and some research assistance. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Institute in Washington, D.C. for the duration of their grant. The Title VIII Research Scholar Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the United States Department of State.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

One round of competitive Title VIII Research Scholar selection is held per year. **The deadline for receipt of applications and supporting materials is January 15.** Applicants will be notified of decisions in early March; grantees are able to commence their appointments as early as July of that year.

Recipients are asked to complete their residency by August of the following year, in accordance with our grantors, and we ask that successful applicants not defer their start date unless under extenuating circumstances. Please note that continuation of the Research Scholar program each year is contingent on future funding.

You may download application forms from our website, **www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan** under the heading “Fellowships.”

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

The Application

A complete application must include the following:

1. The enclosed two-page application form.
2. A list of your publications (not to exceed three pages).
3. A project proposal (not to exceed 2,000 words).
4. A one-page bibliography for the project.
5. Two letters of recommendation (see below for details).

With the exception of the recommendation letters, please submit your application by email as a .pdf package.

The project proposal of no more than 2,000 words is the most important element in the selection process. It is essential to make your project clear to individuals outside your own field and to explain its broader implications. The elements requested below should be incorporated into the text:

1. A detailed description of the topic and its policy relevance beyond the interests of the specific field of study.
2. The originality of the proposed study.
3. The basic ideas and hypotheses.
4. The methods or approaches to be used.
5. The materials that will be drawn upon, and where appropriate, the importance of Washington-area resources.
6. A brief discussion of how you or your project will foster communication between the world of ideas and the world of public affairs.

Letters of Recommendation

It is your responsibility to have two signed letters of reference sent directly from referees to the Kennan Institute by the deadline. Letters should be sent by email with a scanned .pdf of a signed letter. Your referees should be familiar with you and your work. Along with a copy of your proposal, you should send to your referees a copy of the enclosed letter of instruction to referees, which they can use in preparing their comments about your proposed study and your qualifications for undertaking it. They may also comment upon how you and your work would contribute to the Center's goal of bridging the gap between the worlds of scholarship and public affairs.

DEADLINE

All application materials must be received by January 15.

Send all materials to
kennan@wilsoncenter.org

For more information
Telephone: (202) 691-4100
E-Mail: kennan@wilsoncenter.org

TITLE VIII RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

_____	_____	_____
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL

Personal Data

Address to which correspondence should be sent:

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

U.S. Citizen

Date of birth: _____
DAY/MONTH/YEAR

Sex: _____
AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR ID

Professional title and institutional affiliation: _____

Proposed length of fellowship (between three and nine months): _____ months

Field of Study: _____

References

Please list name, title, and institutional affiliation for each referee. Please send the letter on the last page to your referees and ask them to send their recommendations directly to the Kennan Institute by January 31.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Project Information

Title of project: _____

100-word precis of attached project proposal and its significance:



LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
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Education

	DATE	INSTITUTION		MAJOR FIELD
B.A./B.S.	_____	_____	_____	_____
M.A./M.S.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ph.D.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Title of your Ph.D. dissertation _____				
Other _____				

Professional/Occupational Experience: List current position first.

	DATES	ORGANIZATION	POSITION
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Fellowships/Honors: List most recent first.

Language

If English is not your native language, indicate your degree of fluency in English, using Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor:

READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
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In what languages relevant to your proposal are you proficient?

To the Reviewer:

The person who sent this to you is applying for a Title VIII Research Scholarship at the Kennan Institute of the Wilson Center to undertake the attached project proposal. The applicant has identified you as one of two individuals who are familiar with the applicant's work and qualifications and who would be asked to comment specifically on the proposed study and the applicant's ability to undertake it.

We would appreciate receiving from you a full and candid evaluation both of the candidate and of the proposed study project. The basic criteria for selection of scholars are: 1) the importance and originality of the project (the quality of the project proposal and the degree to which the key questions have been identified, and a promising approach outlined), 2) the policy relevance of the project, 3) the applicant's scholarly promise, capabilities, achievement, and the ability to accomplish the proposed project, and 4) the likelihood that the work, when completed, will advance basic understanding of the topic under study and represent a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge about it.

You should be aware that the Kennan Institute and the Wilson Center strive to encourage active scholarly dialogue and the exchange of views and perspectives among resident scholars, and between them and the public at large (in particular, the policy community). While working on their projects, scholars are members of an intellectual community who are encouraged to participate in the institutional life of the Wilson Center in both formal and informal ways, ranging from informal conversations to involvement in the Center's meetings, colloquia, and conferences. It is with this background in mind that we ask for your opinion as to whether the applicant would contribute to the community life of the Institute and of the Center as a whole.

Please email your signed letter of recommendation by the deadline of January 15 directly to the Kennan Institute. Letters of recommendation are crucial to the evaluation process, and we, no less than the candidates themselves, appreciate the care and attention that you will have devoted to the matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Wistrand

Deputy Director

Send recommendations to

kennan@wilsoncenter.org

Telephone: (202) 691-4100