



# THE PAUL & DAISY SOROS FELLOWSHIP

## OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

[The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans](#) supports thirty New Americans, immigrants or the children of immigrants, who are pursuing graduate school in the United States.

Each Fellow receives up to \$90,000 in financial support over two years, and they join a lifelong community of New American Fellows.

## ELIGIBILITY

- New American Status. See the Soros Fellowship website for details. To be eligible, the applicant's birth parents must have both been born outside of the US as non-US citizens, and both parents must not have been eligible for US citizenship at the time of their births. Interested applicants should refer to the PD Soros website for full eligibility details.
- Degree-level: Must be entering graduate school or in the first two years of graduate school.
- Other: Applicants should apply before the age of 31.

## HOW TO APPLY

Candidates apply directly via the online PD Soros application. The online application includes the following:

- Confirmation of eligibility
- Higher-education history

- Intended or current graduate program[s]
- Recommendations (3 required, up to 5 accepted)
- Application components:
  - Resume
  - Two essays
  - Transcripts
  - Scores of standardized tests
- Optional exhibits

## FOR RECOMMENDERS

Letters of recommendation educate and contextualize the achievements and choices of each applicant for the screeners and panelists, which is particularly important because in recent years the Fellowship has received more than 1,800 applications per year from applicants in all types of fields - everything from science, to music, to computer science, to archeology - and from applicants from a diverse range of cultures, backgrounds and places.

The application and recommendation **deadline for the 2025 cycle is 2:00 pm Eastern Time (ET) on October 31, 2024**. A candidate's application files are not released to reviewers until they contain all three of the required letters. If you will be unable to provide a timely letter, we would encourage you to alert the candidate as early as possible so that she or he will have time to identify an alternate recommender.

Please encourage the candidate to provide you with a copy of their essays. The application essays, particularly the first, are unique to the PD Soros application. Reviewing their essays may be useful in contextualizing their accomplishments.

There is no word or page limit for recommendations.

A helpful letter of recommendation will accomplish some of the following:

1. Highlight how an applicant meets the Fellowship's criteria, which emphasize creativity, initiative, originality and sustained accomplishment.
2. Explore the applicant's commitment to the Bill of Rights and Constitution, or more broadly, their sense of citizenship in a community.

3. Contextualize the challenges, opportunities and choices that an applicant has faced, whether they are cultural or educational.
4. Educate the reader about an applicant's field or sub-field, and the level of an applicant's strengths and work within that context.
5. Describe the extent of the applicant's promise of significant contributions to US society, culture or their respective academic field.
6. Explain the relevance an applicant's graduate training to his or her long-term career goals, and of potential value in enhancing his or her future accomplishments.

**Submission Process for recommenders:** You will receive an email from the application system when an applicant registers you as a recommender. Please check your spam folder if you have not received it. Clicking on the link provided in the email will bring you to a "Recommender Registration" page where you will be prompted to create a password.

After you register, you will be brought to a home page, where you can click on the applicant's name and upload your letter of recommendation. If you are writing letters for more than one applicant, all of their names will be listed.

You should save your letter as a PDF document, which you would then upload to the application system. We do not accept other types of files and you will not be able to type the letter directly into the system.