

Academic Fellowship Program





Changing the Face of Education

“The Academic Fellowship Program helps reintegrate returning scholars into academic life, improving not only the quality of home universities, but also the transfer of research and administrative skills. It is a crucial link in the effort to transform higher education.”

Prof. S.N. MacFarlane

Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Relations,
Head, Department of Politics and International Relations,
St. Anne's College, University of Oxford (U.K.)
Academic Fellowship Program International Scholar, 2005–2010

The Academic Fellowship Program of the Open Society Foundations International Higher Education Support Program contributes to higher education reform by supporting promising local scholars and assisting progressive universities in certain countries of South Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Launched by the International Higher Education Support Program in 2004, the Academic Fellowship Program has evolved to meet the changing and varied educational challenges in the regions in which it works.

While responding to the impacts of political, economic, and social change on higher education, the program continues to maintain its fundamental commitment to the importance of promoting higher education reform as a key component of bolstering open, democratic societies.

Higher education reform efforts in the countries targeted by the Academic Fellowship Program are often impeded by lack of funding, ineffective education policies, poor planning and management, reliance on traditional curricula that emphasize passive rather than active learning, limited flexibility in career choices, corruption, and elitism. The program seeks to diminish these obstacles by focusing on both individual scholars and educational institutions, and helping to build local, regional, and global academic networks.

- ▶ The Academic Fellowship Program supports promising local scholars through the Returning Scholars Fellowship Program. The fellowship promotes the return of scholars to the region, their positioning within academe, and their continued professional development.
- ▶ The program also assists reform-minded university departments in their efforts to achieve world-class academic stature and become models of innovation and reform. The Academic Fellowship Program through the International Scholars Fellowship Program selects highly qualified scholars in the social sciences and humanities to assist these partner departments.



Returning Scholars Fellowship Program

“Without the Returning Scholars Fellowship Program, I probably wouldn’t have come home to Russia to teach after completing my studies abroad. The program made my return possible by helping negotiate the terms of my employment with the university. I have never regretted my decision, and I am grateful to the program for the opportunities it helped provide.”

Natalia Morozova

Assistant Professor, Chair of World Politics and International Law, Department of
International Relations,
Nizhny Novgorod State University (Russia)
Academic Fellowship Program Returning Scholar, 2008–2009

The program, as part of a conscious strategy to combat “brain drain” in the social sciences and humanities, supports talented young scholars who, after earning a postgraduate degree abroad, seek university positions and academic careers in their home countries. Securing the services of such scholars is essential to the revitalization of academic departments and the sustainability of higher education reforms, to which Academic Fellowship Program also contributes. The program offers scholars financial, institutional, and professional development support, as well as opportunities for further professional growth as program alumni.

Fellowships comprise monthly stipends and various allowances, including departmental, professional development, and mobility funds, and are renewable. Returning scholars are supported only at partner departments of the Academic Fellowship Program. An interested scholar already associated with a department that is not a program partner will either be ineligible for the fellowship or may discuss the possibility of relocating to a qualifying department at a different university.

Returning Scholars, along with their International Scholar peers, benefit from the Academic Fellowship Program’s innovative

online instrument: the Academic Webfolio Project (www.academicwebfolio.org). Essentially a collective academic workshop, it provides fellows with an open forum to present academic materials and ongoing work that reflect their professional development as scholars and university teachers. Posting the materials encourages fellows’ self-reflection and allows for ongoing peer and expert review and commentary. The Webfolio website’s open, community format provides a convenient and effective opportunity for scholarly dialogue, collaboration, assistance, and access to the collective academic expertise offered by the Academic Fellowship Program’s fellows, the faculty members of its partner departments, and other Open Society Foundations programs.

The Academic Webfolio Project also serves as the platform for the work of the program’s Discipline Groups. These groups have been established to facilitate academic interaction and cooperation among fellows who share similar scholarly interests but are scattered across different universities and countries. The Discipline Groups’ activities are greatly aided by features available on the Webfolio website (www.academicwebfolio.org).



International Scholars Fellowship Program

“As an Academic Fellowship Program International Scholar, I worked with colleagues in Mongolia who were dedicated to making social work a valued profession in their country. We developed workshops and seminars and my colleagues were so eager to learn that I ended up carrying hundreds of pounds of social work books from the United States to their school! I gained a real appreciation of the struggles my peers faced in establishing social work as an emerging academic discipline and profession in their country. The experience also dramatically informed my own teaching and scholarship at home.”

Dr. Kathryn Conroy

Executive Director and CEO, Hedge Funds Care, Preventing and Treating Child Abuse
Assistant Dean at Columbia University’s School of Social Work at the time of the Fellowship
Academic Fellowship Program International Scholar, 2006–2008

The program selects highly qualified scholars in the social sciences and humanities to assist partner departments where Returning Scholars are placed. The International Scholars advise on the overall reform agenda of the departments and share the latest developments in the respective disciplines, and beyond, with departmental colleagues; collaborate on the introduction of new courses; and encourage the development of skills that are crucial for academic success. One of the greatest, and most needed, contributions that International Scholars make is the expert advice they offer on curriculum development and academic planning.

International Scholars share their experience with Returning Scholars and the entire department on a consultative basis. They work on-site with the departments during two or three short and intense visits, and remain in touch with colleagues in the time between these consultations. International Scholars play important roles in the Webfolio Project by mentoring individual Returning Scholars and commenting directly on fellows' webfolios within their Discipline Group, both during and between visits. The details of such arrangements as travel

and work plans are negotiated on an individual basis during the selection process.

International Scholars Fellowships generally include a modest stipend, transportation, accommodation, and various other allowances. Fellows may re-apply the following year.

Program Effectiveness

Academic Fellowship Program Returning Scholars come to AFP along with departments that have been carefully selected as program partners. Partnerships are established on the basis of a department's openness to change and advancement, and clear visions for future development. Returning Scholars working in such environments will find the support and encouragement they need to launch and pursue their academic careers while at the same time contributing to the development of the departments. Partner departments are encouraged to take the lead in recruiting qualified Returning and International Scholars whose professional profiles match departmental needs.



Partner Departments

“Partnership with the Academic Fellowship Program was absolutely crucial for the development of our Political Science Department at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. The program allowed our Returning Scholars to get vital academic exposure abroad, and it facilitated the participation of renowned international scholars and the promotion of excellence in political science as an academic discipline. I hold the program in very high esteem because of the vision and mission it pursued in my country and in our region.”

Dr. Gjorge Ivanov

President of the Republic of Macedonia
Former head of Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Law, Skopje University,
an Academic Fellowship Program partner department since 2005–2006

Departments are chosen based on several criteria: awareness of the need for educational reform and opportunities, demonstrated willingness to embrace change, and concrete, realistic plans for achieving lasting reform. The Academic Fellowship Program gathers detailed information on departments at universities throughout the region, using written questionnaires, interviews, and site visits. Departments meeting program criteria are invited to submit detailed proposals for program support, outlining their plans for departmental development over the course of several years. Based on these proposals, the Academic Fellowship Program's Academic Advisory Council selects the most promising departments for collaboration. A current list of partner departments can be found on the program website at: www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp.

Academic Fellowship Program partner departments benefit in many ways from the presence and activities of International Scholars and Returning Scholars. The program invites fellows to submit proposals for departmental development projects, and encourages fellows to play an active role in the implementation of the program's strategy for partner departments as agreed with the departments. Funding for professional development projects is also available for Returning Scholars, and professional development and training opportunities exist for core faculty (non-program scholars) as well. Specific areas of focus include curriculum development and teaching excellence. The Academic Fellowship Program promotes best practices in education through other activities such as training events, workshops, roundtables, and targeted mobility programs. The program expects, and also provides support for, projects to extend the impact of teaching by incorporating fellows' research in their teaching.

PARTNER DEPARTMENTS

Alumni Involvement

The Academic Fellowship Program treats alumni as a core component by integrating them into ongoing education reform efforts and providing them with a framework for regional and international collaboration. The program's Alumni Fund offers financial support to alumni who wish to contribute their extensive academic expertise and professional skills to the development of partner departments, or who facilitate program work in the Academic Fellowship Program's Discipline Groups and their meetings. The fund is open to Academic Fellowship Program alumni as well as to alumni of the Civic Education Project, and the Support for Community Outreach and University Teaching Program.

Academic Fellowship Program Academic Advisory Council

The fellowship program is pleased to have the following individuals serving on its 2010–2012 Academic Advisory Council:

▶ **Dr. William Newton-Smith**

Head of the Academic Advisory Council

William Newton-Smith recently retired from Balliol College, University of Oxford, where he had been Fairfax Fellow and Lecturer in the Philosophy of Science since 1970. He has held visiting appointments at universities in Canada, China, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Malaysia, and the Netherlands. He holds a master's in philosophy from Cornell University and a doctorate in philosophy from University of Oxford. He is the author of *The Structure of Time*, *The Rationality of Science*, and *Logic*. Newton-Smith serves as a board member of many educational and not-for-profit institutions around the world. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of St. Petersburg in June 2003 for service to Russian education.

▶ **Dr. Kathryn Conroy**

CEO of Hedge Funds Care, Preventing and Treating Child Abuse

Kathryn Conroy has both a master's in social work and a doctorate in social welfare. She began her career in direct service to clients specifically working in child welfare and with battered women, two interests she has sustained throughout her career. She has also worked in New York City government, in social policy, and in academia at the Columbia University School of Social Work. Currently, Conroy is the executive director and CEO of Hedge Funds

Care, an international charity that raises money in the finance industry and gives it to programs that prevent and treat child abuse.

▶ **Dr. Liviu Matei**

Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer,
Central European University

In addition to his work as Central European University's vice-president and CEO, Liviu Matei teaches higher education policy in the university's Department of Public Policy. His work in higher education policy combines research, teaching, professional activities, and civic engagement. Liviu has also worked as a director general for International Relations at the Romanian Ministry of Education, consulted for UNESCO, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe. He has served as an expert on European University Association projects, as co-chair of the Working Group for Higher Education of the Stability Pact for South East Europe and on the steering committee of the UNESCO-EU Project on Management of Higher Education in South East Europe.

▶ **Dr. Howard Robinson**

Department of Philosophy, Central European
University

Howard Robinson is a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Central European University. From 2007 to 2010 he served as provost and academic prorector of the university. He is also an honorary visiting professor at the University of York, U.K., and was recently named as a visiting fellow at Oriel College, University of Oxford and as a visiting scholar at Fordham University, New York. Robinson specializes in the philosophy of metaphysics and the mind, including the philosophy of religion. His writings include publications on the history of philosophy.

▶ **Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse**

Department of Politics and International Relations
and the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies,
University of Oxford

Gwendolyn Sasse is a professorial fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford and a university reader in Comparative Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies. Prior to arriving at Oxford in 2007, Sasse had been a lecturer and senior lecturer at the European Institute and the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she earned her PhD. Her first academic post was an assistant professorship at Central European University. Sasse's research interests include post-communist transitions, comparative democratization, ethnic conflict, minority issues, migration, EU enlargement, and the European Neighborhood Policy.

▶ **Dr. Shlomo Weber**

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas,
The New Economic School, Moscow, Russia

Shlomo Weber is the Dedman Trustee Professor of Economics at Southern Methodist University and a professor of economics at the New Economic School in Moscow. He holds an MSc. in mathematics from Moscow State University and a PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Weber has held positions in universities in Asia, Europe, and North America, and was the holder of the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for Outstanding Foreign Scientists. His main research is in political economics and game theory. His recent books are *The Economics of Linguistic Diversity: How Many Languages Is Enough?* (with Victor Ginsburgh, Free University of Brussels, Belgium), Princeton University Press, forthcoming in the beginning of 2011; and *Handbook on the Russian Economy* (with Michael Alexeev, Indiana University, USA), Oxford University Press, forthcoming at the end of 2011.



Academic Fields and Geographic Representation

“Teaching by western-educated scholars in the social sciences in countries with transition economies contributes to social transformation and the development of democracies. In my country, Georgia, support from the Academic Fellowship Program for public finance scholars has made an incredibly valuable contribution to economic and social development.”

Aleksi Aleksishvili

Co-Managing Partner, CAPES Partners, LLC
Chairman of the Board of Policy and Management Consulting Group (PMCG)
Former Minister of Finance and Minister of Economic Development of Georgia
Former AFP SCOUT fellow, 2004–2005

Academic Fields

The Academic Fellowship Program supports scholars pursuing humanities and social sciences disciplines, including:

- ▶ anthropology
- ▶ area/cultural studies
- ▶ economics
- ▶ environmental studies
- ▶ gender studies
- ▶ history
- ▶ human rights and public law
- ▶ international relations
- ▶ journalism/media studies
- ▶ philosophy
- ▶ political science
- ▶ psychology
- ▶ public policy/ public health
- ▶ social work
- ▶ sociology

Geographic Representation

The Academic Fellowship Program supports efforts for higher education reform in 17 countries:

- ▶ Albania
- ▶ Armenia
- ▶ Azerbaijan
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Kazakhstan
- ▶ Kosovo
- ▶ Kyrgyzstan
- ▶ Macedonia
- ▶ Moldova
- ▶ Mongolia
- ▶ Montenegro
- ▶ Russia
- ▶ Serbia
- ▶ Tajikistan
- ▶ Ukraine

For the most current listing of countries where the program is working for reform, please go to www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp.



Application Guidelines

Eligibility

The competition for all program fellowships is merit-based, and priority is given to individuals who most closely match the profile of an “ideal” candidate. Specific eligibility factors for each fellowship include the following:

Returning Scholars Fellowship Program

- ▶ Citizen of a country in which the program operates
- ▶ An internationally recognized Master (MA) or postgraduate (PhD) degree (awarded by September of the year of application) from a reputable institution of higher education (typically North America, Western Europe, or Australia). A PhD or local equivalent is strongly desired, as the applicant must be qualified to teach in a local university

department. Master’s degree recipients with an interest in pursuing doctoral degrees are welcome to apply.

- ▶ A commitment to a career in higher education in the region, and a strong drive to participate in reform efforts in the field
- ▶ A desire to take advantage of opportunities for professional development and building academic cooperation and networks. For those already working at a university, the home department must be selected as an Academic Fellowship Program partner in order for them to be eligible, unless they are willing to discuss moving to a partner department at a different university. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact their regional or local Academic Fellowship Program office for more information before applying.

International Scholars Fellowship Program

- ▶ A PhD (or equivalent highest degree awarded in the field) in an academic discipline from the list above. Applicants

for this program must be senior or well-established academics currently employed by an institution of higher education, or remaining closely associated and still active in teaching and research at a university; recent degree recipients will not be considered. Extensive experience in scholarly research and teaching. The successful candidate will show proficiency in innovative teaching methodologies specific for the discipline, and a strong commitment to high-quality teaching.

- ▶ Ability to help compose the year’s plan for departmental reform, evaluate needs, and determine how their expertise can most benefit the department. Before final placement, the program and the partner department work with the International Scholar to design a work plan that is both rewarding and feasible for the fellows and of greatest help to the department. The plan must include long-distance mentoring that bridges the time between short departmental visits.



Administration and Contact Information

The Academic Fellowship Program is administered from Budapest in cooperation with field offices located in and serving the following countries and sub-regions:

- ▶ Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
- ▶ Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia)
- ▶ South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia)
- ▶ Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Main Office (Budapest)

Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation
Higher Education Support Program
Academic Fellowship Program
Oktober 6 u. 12
H-1051 Budapest, Hungary
Tel: (+36 1) 882 6160
Fax: (+36 1) 882 3112
Email: afp@osi.hu
www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp

New York Office

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Open Society Foundations
Scholarship Programs
1700 Broadway, Floor 17
New York, NY 10019, USA
Tel: (+1 212) 548 0109
Email: pwatkins@sorosny.org

Regional Offices

CAUCASUS

Armenia–Yerevan

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation
7/1 Tumanyan Street, Second Dead-End
Yerevan 0002, Armenia
Tel/Fax: (+374 10) 533 862; (+374 10) 536 758
Email: susanna@osi.am

Azerbaijan–Baku

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Center for Innovations in Education
Vidadi Street 187, Apt. 24/26
Baku 1014, Azerbaijan
Tel: (+994 12) 498 60 43 | Fax: (+994 12) 498 85 57
Email: risayeva@cie.az

Georgia–Tbilisi

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Open Society–Georgia Foundation
10 Chovelidze Street, 0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: (+995 32) 25 04 63; (+995 32) 91 27 84
Fax: (+995 32) 91 27 84
Email: afp@osgf.ge

CENTRAL ASIA AND MONGOLIA

Kyrgyzstan–Bishkek

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan
Logvinenko Street 55A
Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyzstan
Tel: (+996 312) 66 34 75 (extensions 108 and 103)
Fax: (+996 312) 66 34 48
Email: elmira@soros.kg; nazik@soros.kg

Mongolia–Ulaanbaatar

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Open Society Forum
Jamiyan Gun Street 5/1
Sukhbaatar District
Ulaanbaatar 48, Mongolia
Tel/Fax.: (+976 11) 313 207; (+976 11) 324 857
Email: gerelmaa@forum.mn

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

Serbia–Belgrade

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Fund for an Open Society–Serbia
Kneginje Ljubice 14
Belgrade 11000, Serbia
Tel: (+381 11) 302 5834
Fax: (+381 11) 328 3602
Email: afprosee@fossierbia.org

MOLDOVA–RUSSIA–UKRAINE

Russia–Moscow

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o Open Society Institute Assistance
Foundation
9/17 Tverskaya ul., Stroenie 7
Moscow 125009, Russia
Tel: (+7 495) 940 6579
Fax: (+7 495) 940 9241
Email: komandirova@osi.ru

Ukraine–Kyiv

Academic Fellowship Program–HESP
c/o International Centre for Policy Studies
13-A Pymonenka Street
Kyiv 04050, Ukraine
Tel/Fax: (+380 44) 484 4412; (+380 44) 484 4413
Email: szaitsev@icps.kiev.ua

The **International Higher Education Support Program (HESP)** promotes the advancement of higher education within the humanities and social sciences in South Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, (excluding the Baltic states), and Mongolia. HESP provides assistance, both financial and technical, to a network of institutions ranging from undergraduate universities and “invisible colleges” to doctoral programs and advanced studies centers. HESP focuses on helping develop university leadership, innovative educational agendas, models for local and regional higher education development, and academic professionals open to progressive teaching. The program also works to expand the social role of higher education institutions, increase the involvement of other education funders, and attract a diverse student body to higher education institutions. HESP assists in the strengthening of higher education through large-scale regional programs that operate across several targeted countries simultaneously. For more information, please visit: <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp>

**Academic Fellowship Program
Higher Education Support Program
Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation
Október 6 utca 12, H-1051 Budapest, Hungary**

**Tel: (+36 1) 882 6160 | Fax: (+36 1) 882 3112 | Email: afp@osi.hu
www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp**



This brochure is printed on Revive pure natural offset 100% recycled paper.

Open Society Foundations

Active in more than 70 countries, the Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Working with local communities, the Open Society Foundations support justice and human rights, freedom of expression, and access to public health and education.



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**