

## FELLOWSHIPS 101 VIDEOS SERIES (TRANSCRIPT)

### PART 3: HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH APPLYING?

In this third and final video in the Fellowships 101 series, we'll be talking about how to begin the process of exploring and applying to fellowships.

#### Slide 1

Hello everyone. My name is Jason Chan, the Fellowship and Career Advisor at CCPA. Welcome to the third part of Fellowships 101. In this video, we'll be talking about how to begin the process of exploring and applying to fellowships.

#### Slide 2

So your interest in fellowships has been piqued and you'd like to begin exploring and figuring out how to go about applying for these fellowship opportunities. What I'm going to do in this video is talk about some first steps you can take, knowing that the process of applying to fellowships can take up to several months. These are competitive opportunities, so you want to make sure you're taking the steps to put together a strong application. To do so requires a substantial amount of preparation and a substantial amount of writing, so I encourage students to allocate at least a couple months, if not starting the process a semester ahead of the fellowship deadlines. So today's video will cover some of the initial steps you can take to get the ball rolling, knowing that I will be happy to work with you individually over the course of working on the application process.

#### Slide 3

Here are some first steps you can take. The very first is to identify programs that are the best fit for your goals and interests. The CCPA maintains a list of opportunities on the "Fellowships and Scholarships" section on our website, and there are websites like ProFellow with searchable databases and listings. Once you take a look through these resources and find programs that interest you, I would pop onto the individual fellowship program websites to get a better sense of the eligibility criteria, the different components of the fellowship program, and the details of the application process.

After you've done that, I would encourage you to schedule a meeting with me. This is not only an opportunity for us to go over the details of the fellowship programs you've identified but also to see if there are others that might be a good fit as well as I might throw a couple more for you to think about. In addition, this is also a time to come up with a timeline and game plan for putting together a competitive application for the programs you've identified. Again, as I mentioned earlier, this process can take several months, so having a plan with multiple checkpoints that you and I can touch base on is strongly encouraged. And then finally, and I think this is perhaps one of the more important pieces, is that many fellowship programs require an institutional endorsement letter. I will be writing a letter on behalf of Haverford promoting and endorsing your candidacy for these fellowships. So the better I know you, your background, your experiences, your interests, the stronger the letter I'll be able to write on your

behalf. So that's something to keep in mind as you think about the different fellowship opportunities you found.

#### **Slide 4**

Because the most important component of any fellowship application is the personal statements or essays they ask you to write, taking the time to reflect on your background and experiences well before you start working on your statement would be tremendously helpful.

These are some questions I encourage you to start thinking about: How your interests developed over time? What are the overarching themes to your academic, career, and life journeys? These are all great places to start as these will inevitably come out in the personal statements that you write.

As you reflect on these, take notes! Free write in a physical journal, Google Doc or Word document, or even a note on your phone. Keep it with you; as you think of things, jot them down. The more ideas you can compile at this stage, the easier it'll be once you begin writing. Don't worry about crafting polished sentences at this point; bullet points, short notes, and random thoughts - as long as you're getting your ideas out of your head and onto paper or a document, this will come in handy once the time comes to sit down and start writing your personal statement.

Finally, the last thing I would encourage you all to start thinking about is potential recommenders. Strong recommendation letters can enhance a fellowship application. While average or even weak letters may not completely ruin your chances, consider lost opportunities to bolster and help your application shine in the process. So think about who knows you well, who would be excited to write you a letter, and what you would like your recommenders to say about you.

Fellowship programs will ask you to produce anywhere from 2-5 recommendation letters, so you want to create a list of people you can ask and ideally provide a different perspective on who you are as a candidate. So folks who can speak to your academic background, folks who can speak to your leadership skills, folks who can speak to your general character, for example. So think through the people in your lives - faculty members, advisors, your dean, supervisors, mentors - and start thinking about what each of them might be able to say about you in a potential letter. I would say maintaining that list would be super helpful as well.

Remember, these are the beginning steps. As you make progress on the application and start filling out the personal statement, for example, or asking recommenders, know that I am available as a resource and can continue to meet and work with you throughout the process to ensure your application is as strong as it can be!

I am happy and very willing to review drafts of your personal statement, strategize what the best combination of recommenders might be, and think through how to tailor your application materials to the fellowship program or programs that you're applying to.

**Slide 5**

This concludes part 3 of the Fellowships 101 video series. If you have watched all three videos, then you're in a good place to begin exploring fellowship programs and opportunities. Again, I encourage you to schedule a meeting with me. You can sign up on Handshake or send me an email. I'd be glad to sit down with you and assist you in navigating this process. Please be in touch and I look forward to working with you!