



Frequently Asked Questions



What is the background of the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship?

CIEE began the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship in 2017 to empower students of color – who are traditionally underrepresented on study abroad programs – with a curated study abroad experience to teach leadership, cross-cultural awareness and communication. The goal is for each Fellow to emerge from the program equipped with the skills to be powerful agents of change on issues that are important to them now and in the future.

Fellows are selected based on their academic achievement, communication skills, and commitment to social justice all intrinsic qualities representative of the award’s namesake, Frederick Douglass.

Nettie Washington Douglass, the great, great granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and co-founder of the [Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives](#), has supported the Fellowship since its inception. To use her words, “We are excited to participate in the development of leaders that are taught the value of intercultural awareness and molded to be change agents in their communities like our great ancestor, Frederick Douglass.”

Where will the Fellows study?

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of Frederick Douglass’s transformative time in Ireland, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs is [co-sponsoring the Fellowship this year](#).

The Fellows will be based in Dublin and travel around the country where Douglass campaigned against slavery and oppression in 1845. The Fellows will have the opportunity to meet senior Irish government representatives – including the Irish Taoiseach (a.k.a. – “prime minister”) – as well as the leaders of organizations who support social justice and the advancement of diverse communities in Ireland.

You can watch Nettie Washington Douglass’s August 2020 interview with *CBS This Morning* about her ancestor’s journey to Ireland on [YouTube](#).

What are the dates of the program?

This summer’s cohort will study from July 15 to August 15. Please note these dates are subject to change. Please confirm with CIEE before making any travel plans.



Is the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship a full scholarship?

The award covers the full cost of travel, housing, program field trips, and participation in a four-week summer study abroad course taught by CIEE. Selected Fellows are responsible for some expenses including their own passport, some meals and recreational activities.

Who is eligible for the Fellowship?

We invite applications from first-, second- and third-year students who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and are from ethnic backgrounds typically underrepresented on study abroad programs. Additionally, all eligible applicants qualify for a \$1,500 scholarship for any CIEE summer program.

How do I apply?

The application is online at ciee.org/FDGF and due on February 14, Frederick Douglass's birthday. Applicants must submit a recent transcript (an unofficial version is acceptable), a letter of recommendation, and a 3-4 minute video that answers at least two of the following questions:

- How are you inspired by the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass?
- Why are you interested in this study abroad opportunity?
- How have you taken action to try to solve a social problem?
- How do you hope to advance positive change in the future?



What should I know about the application?

Historically, the two places the application has slowed down students is the letter of recommendation and the personal video. This will help:

Request your **letter of recommendation** well in advance of the deadline. You must secure this recommendation from someone at your college or university. You can request this from the president, chancellor, provost, vice provost, dean, administrator or faculty member who knows you.

In the application, you will submit the name and email address of the person you are requesting a recommendation from. The recommender will automatically receive an email with directions to upload his or her letter of recommendation to your application. Your recommender's letter must be *received* by the February 14 application deadline.

Your **video** is another critical component. We hope that you will use this opportunity to tell us what makes you unique. For additional tips, check out this [quick tutorial](#) on YouTube but please note that the instructions for the video and requested length have changed.

Is the Fellowship competitive?

Yes, the Fellowship is competitive but believe in yourself. We are looking for students who have confidence, abilities and leadership that can affect change. Additionally, all qualified applicants who do not receive the Fellowship will qualify for a \$1,500 summer study abroad scholarship and will be named a Frederick Douglass Summer Scholar.



What is a Frederick Douglass Summer Scholar?

The Summer Scholars are eligible applicants who completed the application but were not selected for the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship. All Summer Scholars qualify for a \$1,500 scholarship toward a CIEE summer 2021 program many have been successful raising the remainder of the program fee from their institution or other scholarships!

When is the application due?

Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 14, 2021. Late applications will not be considered for any reason and all application tasks must be finished in their entirety.

When will the selection of the Fellows be announced?

March 17 – **Saint Patrick's Day** – of course!

Where can I find more information?

- ☺ Visit our website: www.ciee.org/FDGF
- ☺ Follow us on Instagram: [@ciee_Douglass](https://www.instagram.com/ciee_Douglass)
- ☺ Email us with your questions: FDGF@ciee.org

