

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS—James H. Billington Fellowship

This document contains instructions and the application form for the Kennan Institute's James H. Billington Fellowship. Please take a moment to review the various research grants offered by the Kennan Institute on our website: www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan. After reviewing the list, should you decide that you would rather apply for one of the Institute's other grant programs, please download the proper application form, if any. Please keep in mind that **the Billington Fellowship has no citizenship restriction**. The Kennan Institute is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, and encourages applicants of all backgrounds to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for fellowships based solely on their merits. Non-U.S. applicants must be eligible to obtain a J-1 exchange visitor visa.

Applicants for the Billington Fellowship must hold a Ph.D. issued within the past 10 years. Preference will be given to proposed research in the fields of Russian history and culture.

The Billington Fellowship offers a monthly stipend of \$5,000, research facilities, a research intern, and computer access. Fellows are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute, Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. for the duration of the grant. Awardees are expected to begin their appointments within six months of accepting the fellowship.

The Application

1. the following individual application form
2. a project proposal and title (not to exceed 1,000 words)
3. a curriculum vitae, including publications (not to exceed 5 pages)
4. two letters of recommendation

Please note all materials must be in English.

Applications may be scanned and sent as PDF files by email (please note the individual application form is a fillable PDF file). Applications may also be submitted in hard-copy by post. Do not send sample publications.

THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE SELECTION PROCESS. It is essential that you make your project clear to individuals outside your own field and explain its broader implications, including policy relevance. Please note that for the Billington Fellowship preference will be given to proposed research on Russian history or culture.

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. a brief discussion of how you or your project will foster communication between the world of ideas and the world of public affairs.
5. the feasibility of completing your project in the time proposed.

Letters of Recommendation

It is your responsibility to have two signed letters of reference **sent directly** to the Kennan Institute by the deadline. Scanned copies of signed letters sent to us by email are acceptable. Your referees should be familiar with you and your work. Along with a copy of your proposal,

you should also send your referees a copy of the letter of instruction, included with this packet, 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 May 15.

Applications will be reviewed by an expert committee.

All materials should be sent to:

Email: kennan@wilsoncenter.org

Or, by post:

Billington Fellowship
Kennan Institute
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-3027

For more information, please call:

1(202) 691-4100

BACKGROUND: THE BILLINGTON FELLOWSHIP

The Billington Fellowship is a tribute to the co-founder of the Kennan Institute, Director Emeritus of the Wilson Center, and Librarian Emeritus of Congress, James H. Billington. Dr. Billington has made enduring contributions to the field of Russian Studies, and in our nation's ability to understand and maintain bridges of dialogue with the Russian people. He is not only the author of *The Icon and the Axe* (1966), *Fire in the Minds of Men* (1980), and *Russia in Search of Itself* (2004), among other seminal works; he is the visionary behind the Open World Leadership Center, which has facilitated the travel of over 24,000 individuals from Eurasia to the United States to meet with members of Congress and visit across the United States.

The Billington Fellow will be based at the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute in Washington, D.C. for a 9-month term (one academic year). Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials at the State Department, USAID, Department of Defense, and Congress. While conducting research, the Billington Fellow will be expected to actively participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities. These discussions can be in the form of speaking engagements at the Wilson Center and potentially outside of Washington D.C., as well as meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and the Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowship, the Billington Fellow will join our growing list of alumni, for whom the Kennan Institute will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

BILLINGTON FELLOWSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DATA *(Please complete using Latin letters. Write your name as it appears on your international passport.)*

| <i>Last name</i> | <i>First name</i> | <i>Middle Initial</i> |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|

Home Address:

Work Address:

Home telephone _____

Work telephone _____

E-mail _____

Fax _____

Professional title and institutional affiliation _____

Citizenship _____ Date of Birth _____ Sex _____
day/month/year M or F

Proposed dates of fellowship _____

Field of Study _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of Project _____

100-WORD PRECIS OF ATTACHED PROJECT PROPOSAL AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

EDUCATION

Undergraduate B.A./B.S.(Date, Institution, Major Field) _____

Ph.D. or *Kandidat Nauk* _____

Title of Dissertation _____

Doktor Nauk (if applicable) _____

Title of Dissertation _____

Other _____

PROFESSIONAL/OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE (*List current position first*)

| Dates | Organization | Position |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

FELLOWSHIPS/HONORS RECEIVED (*List most recent first*)

For non-U.S. Citizens: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS *Please rate English language ability, using the terms Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor.*

Reading

Writing

Listening

Speaking

To the Referee:

The Billington Fellowship was established in 2016 as a tribute to the co-founder of the Kennan Institute, Director Emeritus of the Wilson Center, and Librarian Emeritus of Congress, James H. Billington. Dr. Billington has made enduring contributions to the field of Russian Studies, and in our nation's ability to understand and maintain bridges of dialogue with the Russian people. He is not only the author of *The Icon and the Axe* (1966), *Fire in the Minds of Men* (1980), and *Russia in Search of Itself* (2004), among other seminal works; he is the visionary behind the Open World Leadership Center, which has facilitated the travel of over 24,000 individuals from Eurasia to the United States to meet with members of Congress and visit across the United States. Once a year, the Billington Fellow is chosen to be in residence at the Kennan Institute to conduct research on projects related to the field of Russian history and culture.

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 applicant's scholarly capabilities, achievement, and the ability to accomplish the proposed project; and
- 3) 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 also be aware that the Kennan Institute and the Wilson Center strive to encourage active scholarly dialogue and exchange of views and perspectives among fellows and between them and the public at large. While working on their projects, fellows are also 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 send your scanned, signed letters of recommendation by the deadline of **May 15** directly to the Kennan Institute email address: kennan@wilsoncenter.org. 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,

Matthew Rojansky
Director