

## **The Gordon N. Fisher/JHR Journalism Fellowship at Massey College in the University of Toronto**

(Application form can be found on page 4)

*The objective of the fellowship is to encourage improvement in journalism by offering to qualified men and women an opportunity to broaden their horizons by studying in a university setting.*

The Gordon N. Fisher/JHR Journalism Fellowship at Massey College in the University of Toronto is an annual opportunity for a journalist from the following regions to participate in the William Southam Journalism Fellowship Program: Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, with preference given to candidates from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, South Sudan, DR Congo, Syria, Jordan and Indigenous candidates from JHR's Indigenous Reporters Program. Funded by the Alva Foundation in memory of the former president and chief executive officer of the Canadian newspaper and communications company, Southam Inc., the grant allows the Fellowship to be held annually at Massey College and the University of Toronto under the auspices of Journalists for Human Rights.

### **About the Fellowship**

The Fisher Fellowship runs in tandem with the [William Southam Journalism Fellowships](#) and takes place over one academic year – September to May – at the University of Toronto.

Fellows are able to choose from a wide range of university courses and activities, are free to audit any graduate or undergraduate courses and have access to the University's many facilities. Fellows live at Massey College, a multi-disciplinary graduate residential college in the University of Toronto. There are no educational prerequisites for a Fellowship, nor do Fellows receive credits or degrees for work done during the academic year. The program typically requires auditing at least two academic courses a semester; one academic course must be taken in full and all assignments completed.

The Fisher/JHR Fellow meets regularly with his or her Canadian counterparts in informal seminars to discuss issues with speakers from a wide variety of professions. They also participate in full in any trips organized as part of the program.

To obtain the maximum benefit from the program, Fellows agree to refrain from professional work, including writing and broadcasting, during the period of the Fellowship. Personal holidays are restricted to University holiday periods.

**Applicants should note that the University of Toronto, St. George campus, does not offer courses in Journalism.**

### **The Fellowship underwrites:**

- (1) an eight-month stipend that will replicate the successful applicant's salary along with any costs associated with the program. The first monthly installment will commence with an end-September payment and conclude with the end-April payment;
- (2) all university fees;
- (3) travel expenses up to the cost of economy air fare to and from Toronto for the Fellow;
- (4) travel expenses for organized trips during the program;
- (5) a winter clothing allowance
- (6) a book allowance

### **Application Information**

Applicants are shortlisted by JHR staff and the successful candidate is selected by a committee headed by the Master of Massey College, the Senior Southam Fellow and the Director of JHR. The successful applicant is chosen for professional competence and future potential as an effective and responsible journalist. Both male and female journalists are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates are curious, smart and engaged. They are able to adapt to life in a cold climate for several months. They are open to learning from a new and unfamiliar culture, and interested in building their profile internationally. **IMPORTANT: Note that there are no provisions for family members.**

### **Application Criteria:**

- 5 years' experience working in media
- Currently full-time as a news or editorial employee at a newspaper, radio station, television station, magazine or news service. Freelance journalists who have been working consistently in the media over an eight-year period will also be considered
- **Proficiency in English**
- Three letters of reference

### **Application Process:**

**Deadline for submission is no later than January 31, 2022. Applications will only be considered when all of the following completed documents are submitted on the application portal:**

- Completed application form (pages 4-5 of this document)
- A proposal for a plan of study
- A statement of intent
- A curriculum vitae
- Samples of written or broadcast work (no more than three)
- Three letters of reference (sent separately by referees to [fisherfellow@jhr.ca](mailto:fisherfellow@jhr.ca) with with the subject line 'Letter of Reference - Applicant Full Name'.)

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by the first week of April 2022.

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Funding for the Gordon N. Fisher/JHR Fellowship has been provided by a generous gift from the Alva Foundation. The program is administered by Massey College in the University of Toronto, the host organization in Canada, with the support of Journalists for Human Rights.

Massey College: <http://www.masseycollege.ca/fellowships-and-programs/journalism-fellows/>

University of Toronto: <http://www.utoronto.ca/>

Journalists for Human Rights: <http://www.jhr.ca>

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10. Have you ever received an overseas fellowship or bursary? If so, give details.

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11. State the names and positions of three persons whom you are asking for letters of reference. One of these must be a letter from your managing editor or editor-in-chief. Ask your referees to write a frank appraisal of your ability to profit from the experience of an academic year spent at the University of Toronto, in addition to the length of time and the capacity in which they have known you. Letters of reference must be sent directly to [fisherfellow@jhr.ca](mailto:fisherfellow@jhr.ca) with the subject line 'Letter of Reference - Applicant Full Name'. **These letters are essential.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

In order for an application to be eligible for consideration, candidates must upload this completed form along with the following documents on the application portal **no later than January 31, 2022.**

- curriculum vitae
- two required essays (statement of intent and plan of study)
- work samples

*Please visit the application portal for more details about these additional documents.*

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### ENDORSEMENT

(This section must be completed by a top executive of the applicant's employing organization such as publisher, senior general management, or senior editor.)

I am pleased to support the application of \_\_\_\_\_ (applicant name) for the 2022-2023 Gordon N. Fisher / JHR Journalism Fellow At Massey College, University of Toronto.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization) is prepared to grant him/her/them leave of absence without pay for a period of one university academic year (September 1 to April 30) in the event this application is successful.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_