

James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 for the purpose of improving teaching about the United States Constitution in secondary schools. The Foundation is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the federal government. Funding for the Foundation's programs comes from Congress and generous contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. The Foundation has a Board of Trustees and its daily operations are directed by a President and a small staff. The Foundation's offices are located in Washington, D.C.

The James Madison Fellowships were created to honor Madison's legacy and Madisonian principles by providing support for graduate study that focuses on the Constitution—its history and contemporary relevance to the practices and policies of democratic government. The benefits of the fellowship program are manifold and lasting. Fellowship recipients have a unique opportunity to strengthen their research, writing, and analytical skills. In the process they form professional ties that can significantly influence their career aspirations. Fellows gain a deeper understanding of the principles of constitutional government which they in turn transmit to their students. In this way the James Madison Fellowships ensure that the spirit and practical wisdom of the Constitution will guide the actions of future generations of American citizens.

Junior Fellowships are awarded to students who are about to complete, or have recently completed, their undergraduate course of study and plan to begin graduate work on a full-time basis. Junior Fellows have two years to complete their degree.

The Fellowships are intended exclusively for graduate study leading to a master's degree. James Madison Fellows can attend any accredited institution of higher education in the United States. Each individual entering the James Madison Fellowship Program will be expected to pursue and complete a master's degree in one of the following (Listed in order of preference):

- q Master of Arts degree (MA) in American history or in political science (also referred to as "government and politics" or as "government");
- q Master of Arts in Teaching degree (MAT) concentrating on either American Constitutional history (in a history department) or American government, political institutions and political theory (in a political science department);
- q Master of Education degree (MEd) or the Master of Arts or Master of Science in Education, with a concentration in American history or American government, political institutions, and political theory.

The Fellow's proposed plan of graduate study should contain substantial constitutional course work. Fellow are encouraged to choose institutions which offer courses that closely examine the origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, the evolution of political theory and constitutional law, the effects of the Constitution on society and culture in the United States, or other such topics directly related to the Constitution.

Whatever institution and whichever degree a Fellow selects, at least 12 semester credits (or 18 quarter credits) of constitutional study must be part of the Fellow' program. The institution should accept the six credits earned at Georgetown University by the Fellow at the Foundation's Summer Institute on the Constitution.

As part of the James Madison Fellowship program, each Fellow attends the four-week Summer Institute on the Constitution held at Georgetown University.

The academic focus of the Institute is a graduate course entitled "The Foundations of American Constitutionalism." Taught by constitutional scholars, this course is a study of the principles, framing, ratification, and implementation of constitutional government in the United States. This is an intense course of study and fellows are required to live on campus. Class attendance is mandatory. Six credit hours are awarded by Georgetown University for successful completion of Institute. A feature of the Institute is the scheduling of occasional trips to sites in and around Washington that are associated with the Constitution.

One of the informal benefits of attending the Institute is the opportunity for interaction with a wide range of individuals, whose varied interests can lead to enduring friendships and professional associations.

To be eligible to apply for a fellowship, you must be:

- q A U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- q Planning to become a teacher, of American history, American government, or social studies at the secondary school level.
- q You must either currently possess a bachelor's degree, or plan to receive a bachelor's degree no later than August 31 of the year in which you are applying.

The maximum amount of each award is up to \$24,000, prorated over the individual period of study, thus making the James Madison Fellowship the leading award for secondary level teachers undertaking the study of the Constitution. Fellowship payments cover the actual costs of tuition, required fees, books, and room and board but cannot exceed \$12,000 per academic year. Normally, Fellows receive less than these maximum amounts.

James Madison Fellowship Program

2201 North Dodge Street
P.O. Box 4030
Iowa City, IA 52243-4030
Phone: 800/525-6928 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., central time)
Fax: 319/337-1204
E-mail: madison@act.org