Applications

1. When does the application open and when is it due?
   ○ The application for the Presidential Fellowship cohort for the Class of 2023 opens on February 15, 2021 and closes on March 1, 2021 at 11:59 AM ET. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

2. What are the eligibility requirements to apply?
   ○ In order to apply to the fellowship program you must be:
     ■ Graduating with a GW undergraduate degree by Spring 2021
     ■ Have completed at least 55 credits in residence at GW by the end of Fall 2020
     ■ Be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university
     ■ Have applied to a GW master’s degree program by February 2021
   ○ Law School students seeking a non-lawyer degree, Master of Studies in Law (MSL) are eligible to apply to the Presidential Fellowship
   ○ Students in 4+1/dual degree programs are eligible to apply to the Presidential Fellowship
   ○ International students are eligible to apply to the Presidential Fellowship
   ○ Law School students seeking professional law degrees (JD/LLM) and Medical School (MD) students are not eligible for the Presidential Fellowship program.

3. Do I need a nomination to apply to the fellowship?
   ○ A nomination is not needed. Nominations are used to generate awareness about the Presidential Fellowship and do not guarantee acceptance to the fellowship.

4. What does the application process look like?
   ○ For complete details on our recruitment timeline and application requirements, download the application instructions at paf.gwu.edu/applynow. The portal link to officially apply is included in the application instructions.
   ○ Please note that applicants are not required to answer every question on the demographic questionnaire. However, you must turn in the entire form in order to complete the application!

5. How do I get a letter of recommendation?
   ○ You are encouraged to utilize the same recommendation letter that you used for your GW graduate school application, by asking your graduate school evaluator to resubmit to us. They may address the salutation to the “Presidential Fellowship Selection Committee.” You may also ask another recommender to write a letter on your behalf. You will be able to generate an email to them through the Presidential Fellowship application portal, using their name and email address. Recommendation letters are due by March 1, 2021 at 11:59 AM ET.
6. Do I need to apply to a GW graduate school program before applying to the Presidential Fellowship?
   ○ Yes, you will need to show proof of your GW graduate school submission when you apply for the Presidential Fellowship. This will be accomplished by uploading a confirmation page from the application site or an acceptance letter from your GW graduate school. Please note that the GW graduate school application(s) and the Presidential Fellowship application are two separate processes.
   ○ GW graduate schools have different deadline dates for graduate school. If you have not already applied, please confirm with an admissions administrator that you will hear back the status of your application by April 15.
   ○ You are allowed to apply to more than one GW graduate program (and it’s free to do so!)

7. Do I need to be accepted into a GW graduate school by the time I interview with the Presidential Fellowship?
   ○ All applicants who have an interview with the Presidential Fellowship will learn candidacy status by April 8. Successful candidates who receive an offer to become a Presidential Fellow will have until April 15 to confirm their position with the program. These candidates will also need to confirm their graduate school acceptance by then.

8. What happens once I apply?
   ○ You will receive an immediate, on-screen confirmation from the portal. After your application is reviewed, you will be notified about your status on March 17 through email. If your application continues through the process, you will have an opportunity to sign-up for a virtual interview. Interviews will take place between March 24 to March 30. All candidates will be notified of their final status by April 8. You will have until April 15 to accept the Fellowship.

9. Can I schedule a time to talk to a current Fellow before submitting my application?
   ○ Although Fellows will not give direct guidance for applying to the Fellowship, we are happy to share our experiences. Contact us through Instagram, Facebook, or paf@gwu.edu.

10. Do I also need to apply for FAFSA?
    ○ Everyone is encouraged to apply for FAFSA, if needed, regardless of being accepted into the Fellowship.

11. What does good academic standing mean?
    ○ Please be sure to check your school or department’s definition of academic standing. Your status can also be found on your transcript. Generally “good academic standing” means: Undergraduate students are considered to be in
good academic standing if at the end of any semester their grade-point average (GPA) for that semester and their cumulative GPA are 2.0 or above.

12. Question about transcript process?
   ○ Transcripts can be obtained through the Office of the Registrar. As of December 2020, there is no charge for official transcripts. Please add a couple of days for request processing through the Registrar’s website. We will not accept self prepared transcripts.

13. Preparing for the interview
   ○ Contact GW’s Center for Career Services and/or Handshake to find resources on mock interviews, resume reviews, and consulting with a Coach.

14. Any final tips?
   ○ Remember to read the application requirements carefully, answer all questions of the application and submit all required documents. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
   ○ Proofread your essays before submitting. Simple spelling and grammar errors often go unchecked and can distract from the meaningful content in your application.
   ○ Utilize your school’s Career Center to review and enhance your review resume, written materials, and interview preparation.

Fellowship

15. What is the Presidential Fellowship?
   ○ The Presidential Fellowship (PAF) is a unique University sponsored program which offers graduating GW seniors the opportunity to pursue a Master’s Degree at GW (now including a Master of Study in Law), and develop professional skills and interests by working in a GW office. Fellows are asked for a two year commitment towards advancing The George Washington University community by serving in ambassadorial, academic, professional, and service roles. The Presidential Fellow family consists of 158 alumni and 3 dedicated Advising Team members
   ○ Benefits/Compensation:
     ■ 42 credits of tuition and fees towards a GW master’s degree at GW
     ■ A graduate salary and stipend (currently $25,000) for 25 hours/week for 20 hours of in office work and approximately 5 hours/week of PAF program work (paid in nine equal installments between August 1 – April 30 for work from mid August through mid May)

16. What is the time commitment and workload associated with the fellowship?
   ○ Presidential Fellows are expected to work a total of 25 hours per week, including 20 hours in their placement in a university department and, on average, 5 hours per week on Presidential Fellowship program duties. Summer placement work is optional, is not included in the base compensation, and such arrangements must be mutually agreed upon by the Presidential Fellow and the placement site.
The Presidential Fellowship begins in mid-August and concludes in mid-May. You will not have any responsibility to the Fellowship during summer breaks.

17. What types of Ambassadorial work do the fellows do?
- This year the Fellows met with Jay Goff, GW's new Vice Provost of Enrollment and Student Success to provide the student perspective for his department. We have also met with other GW senior administrators, attended Board of Trustee meetings, and served as committee members on university task forces.

18. Will I be expected to return to campus for the Fellowship?
- The program follows the same university guidance for all GW students.

Placements

19. What is a placement?
- Through the fellowship, you will enhance your professional development by working as a student staff member of a university department. In that capacity, you will have a supervisor that will serve as your Preceptor. Current placement sites include: Division of Safety and Facilities, The Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, The Office of the President, Sustainable GW, the Multicultural Student Services Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research, GW Athletics and the Graduate School of Political Management. More information on placement sites will be shared with candidates in March.

20. Do you stay in one placement for both years of the fellowship?
- Depending on placement availability, Fellows are allowed to switch placements yearly. Most Fellows choose to stay for two years. Switching each year depends on placement site availability and the Fellow's personal interest.

21. What is a preceptor?
- Your direct supervisor and, often times, mentor. This person works at your placement site and will be directly involved in your professional development during your time as a fellow.

22. What Professional Development opportunities exist within the placement?
- Professional development happens through several facets of the Fellowship. When you begin your placement, you and your supervisor establish goals and desired skills to strengthen or hone. Fellows will have regular check-in meetings with the advising team, attend career development workshops, master important professional competencies, and participate in University forums and summits.

23. How are placements being conducted virtually?
- In the virtual environment, you still work on your professional development by working as a staff member of a university department. In that department, you will
have a supervisor that will serve as your preceptor. You will work with your preceptor to outline your roles and responsibilities, accomplish tasks/projects and come up with a communication plan that works for you both. This can often include regular virtual check-ins, virtual meetings, and email communication. GW staff have been re-imagining in-person projects/events to be refitted for a virtual environment.

24. How are placements chosen?
   ○ After the new cohort is selected, the new Fellows will have an opportunity to meet with GW departments who expressed interest in hosting a Fellow. Interviews and hiring decisions for placement rests entirely between the GW department who is hiring and the Fellow.

Email paf@gwu.edu with any specific questions.