

Frequently Asked Questions From Javits Coordinators

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program

U.S. Department of Education

Q1: Is it true that regardless of how many credit hours a student takes, an institution with Javits fellows must cover the cost of courses taken over a twelve-month period?

A1: Yes. The institution agrees at the beginning of the grant to accept the federal payment in lieu of tuition and fees normally charged to students in the same academic program.

Q2: Are new or continuing fellows allowed to receive an "advance" on the grant from their institution?

A2: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) permits "pre-award costs," in Section 74.24(e)(1) which allows a grantee to incur preaward costs up to 90 days prior to award at the institution's risk. It is up to the institution whether or not to advance the funds to a fellow before the official start date of the fellowship.

Q3: How are continuing Javits fellows awarded?

A3: Each year in December or January, we will ask the institution to complete the Report of Financial Need and Certification to request fellowship funds for continuing students. This form requests information on each fellow regarding their financial need, stipend request for the next academic year (depending on need), institutional payment, unused funds in current year, acceptable academic progress, etc. As a condition of their fellowship, continuing fellows must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the financial need determination and submit the results to their school. Funds for fellows are sent in the form of a grant to the institution in the summer preceding the academic year for which the funds are requested.

Q4: How is the stipend disbursed -- in one lump sum or in monthly installments?

A4: The distribution of the stipend is determined by the institution administering the fellowship on behalf of the Department of Education. Most institutions either do a semester disbursement or a monthly disbursement.

Q5: Does the stipend distribution schedule include the summer?

A5: The fellowship budget period is twelve months.

Q6: What do most Javits fellows do during the summer?

A6: Fellows sometimes do research or other independent study over the summer using the Javits monthly stipend payment. Otherwise, fellows get some other type of support over the summer including employment if related to their field of study, but this might affect their financial need in calculating next year's stipend amount.

Q7: May a new fellow defer the fellowship during their first year of study?

A7: No. A new fellow cannot defer the Javits fellowship in the first year of study. This requirement can be found in the Javits Regulations section 650.34 (d), "What conditions must be met by fellows?"

Q8: I would like to request 50 application booklets for our students. Is it possible to have them mailed directly to me?

A8: No. Please be advised that Javits competitions are held annually. The Javits applications are made available electronically for downloading purposes only in August each competition year. Thus, please be sure to refer to the program Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html> to access the application and all related competition announcements.

Q9: A student just got back GRE scores of 730 math, 650 verbal, 660 analytical (or percentile ranks of 84 percent, 92 percent and 77 percent, respectively). Does this put

the student out of the running for a Javits, despite other impressive academic accomplishments?

A9: No. The GRE scores by themselves will not eliminate an applicant from the competition. While the GRE scores are considered, they do not carry the heaviest weight. The applicant should have other qualities to support their candidacy – clear vision and purpose demonstrated in the personal statement, evidence of depth and breadth in the field of study as demonstrated in the transcript, and honors/awards or other activities related to the field, including those that show leadership. The letters of recommendation are extremely important in supporting the applicant. All of these factors are considered by the evaluators.

Q10: One of my Javits fellows would like to use some of the “cost-of-education allowance” funds to study for one semester at a foreign institution in an internship. They will not be transferring to a foreign institution, but will still be enrolled at their home institution during this time. Is this permissible?

A10: Yes. Fellows may attend/participate in internships abroad as long as they remain enrolled at their home institution.

Q11: Is a student's need calculated according to a nine-month academic year or a 12-month year?

A11: A 12-month needs calculation is allowable provided that the student is enrolled over the summer months. Summer enrollment could be independent study or research if required classes are not available.

Q12: I have received a message from a student who has indicated that she will be transferring to another university in the fall. What do we need to do at this point?

A12: Please ask any student who plans to transfer to another institution to complete a copy of the Request for Institutional Transfer Form and submit it through their existing institution. The form can be printed from our Web page at:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html>. This serves as an official notice to them that they will not continue the fellowship there, and as a notice for us to remove the student from one school, add the student to another in our database, and move any remaining funds of their fellowship to the new institution. Also, the student should contact you with financial need information. Please inform the student that they must also submit a copy of their FAFSA form. Use it to complete or revise the report of financial need for that student's cohort. If the institution a student transfers to does not have fellows in the same cohort as the transferring student, we will probably add the transfer student to a new grant.

Q13: A new fellow has come forward. Should I obtain a FAFSA form from them so I can calculate their financial need for fall?

A13: Yes.

Q14: How do I calculate the maximum of stipend funding that the fellows legitimately qualify for?

A14: A Javits fellow is a full-time student who has to live for twelve months with no substantial income. The financial aid office at your school can assist you in projecting the need for a 12-month schedule.

Q15: How do grade reports indicating "Incomplete" coursework affect a Javits fellow?

A15: An "incomplete" only affects a Javits fellow if it results in unsatisfactory progress at your institution. A Javits fellow must make satisfactory progress based on your standards and definition in order to continue on the fellowship.

Q16: I need to know who my new and continuing fellows will be for the next academic year. Do you have this information? Can you fax me a document (on letterhead) providing the names of the newly selected Javits fellows?

A16: The program office must complete the official grant award notification documents first. An attachment to this document provides the list of fellows. Each newly selected

fellow is funded under a new grant. Students selected for Javits fellowships are mailed a letter acknowledging their selection as fellows and providing the contact information at the school.

Q17: If a student is graduating at the end of this academic year, should I request a FAFSA form from them?

A17: No. Their financial need will not have to be calculated for the upcoming academic year because they will be graduating. Remember to indicate the "Unused Funds" on the Report of Financial Need and Certification on the line with their name.

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