Summer Institute for the Study of

Program Description

Summer Institute For The Study Of East Central And Southeastern Europe (SISECSE)

The Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE) is a two-week residential workshop, that provides scholars of Eastern Europe time and space to dedicate to their own research and writing in a collaborative and interdisciplinary setting. ACLS in partnership with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS) will convene leading scholars from Eastern Europe and North America for a two-week residency in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria from June 5, 2025, to June 20, 2025.

SISECSE will also provide participating scholars with the opportunity to undertake local fieldwork, including archival or collections research, interviews, site surveys, or other forms of data collection. Fieldwork is not a requirement for participation.

This program is made possible thanks to a generous donation by Carl and Betty Pforzheimer.

IMMERSIVE DISCUSSIONS

In addition to conducting their own research, scholars will also have the opportunity to participate in a series of immersive discussions on a broad topic of shared academic interest.

In 2025, discussions will explore "Epistemic Mistrust: Authorship, Credibility, and Knowledge Production." Whether in times of crisis and war, or times of peace and stability, who do we trust to tell the truth? Whose stories do we listen to? With a growing lack of trust in traditional sources of knowledge, including suspicion of academic institutions, public confidence in the value of research is eroding. Nevertheless, humanistic approaches are essential for fostering critical thinking and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue. Participants will consider diverse questions: how can scholars in the humanities or interpretive social sciences (https://www.acls.org/faqs/acls-faq/) help cultivate a more nuanced understanding of truth? How can we enhance the relevance and accessibility of academic research? How can we make the process of knowledge production and dissemination more inclusive?

Discussions will be held over several meals and in one seminar session.

It is not required or expected that applicant's research projects are connected to the workshop theme. Thematic discussions are intended for the enrichment of the participants.

DETAILS

- The program will offer a travel stipend and cover accommodation and per diem expenses for the two-week residency.
- Institute members will be expected to be in residence and to participate in all planned events for the duration of the institute.
- Scholars will also be provided with opportunities to travel locally during this time.
- Scholars should apply with their own research proposals through this website.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have a PhD degree conferred (officially awarded) by an accredited university by the application deadline. An established scholar who can demonstrate the equivalent of the PhD in publications and professional experience may also qualify.
- The competition is open to scholars in any field or discipline in the humanities or interpretive social sciences (https://www.acls.org/faqs/acls-faq/) pursuing postdoctoral or advanced research in East Central and Southeastern Europe, including Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.
- Applicants must have an affiliation—a long-term regular research or teaching appointment—with an
 institution (i.e., college, museum, university) in North America (Canada, Mexico, US) or East Central and
 Southeastern Europe (see the list above). Applicants who do not have tenure-track or permanent positions
 should describe their future commitment to working in North America or East Central and Southeastern
 Europe.
- There are no restrictions as to the citizenship of applicants.
- The application must be submitted in English, but the written work produced may be in any language.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must include:

- A completed application form including demographic information.
- An application essay (no more than four double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica11-point font). The application essay should lay out the research project—what it is about, its location in the current literature, what sources are to be examined, and how the applicant plans to carry out the work.
- An optional one to two pages of images, musical scores, or other similar supporting non-text materials.
- A bibliography (no more than two pages, double-spaced between entries, in Arial or Helvetica11-point font).
- A list of the applicant's publications (no more than two pages, double-spaced between entries, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font). Applicants should indicate if any of their publications resulted from prior ACLS funding.
- An applicant's statement (no more than two double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font). The statement should describe the type of research, writing, or fieldwork an applicant intends to carry out in Bulgaria, the impact of this work on the applicant's research project, and the applicant's interest in participating in interdisciplinary conversations. ACLS is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the fellowship application process. Please use the applicant's statement to note any relevant information about your personal background and/or ways in which your proposed research addresses issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Significance of the topic and its potential contribution to the study of East Central and Southeastern Europe.
- The quality and innovativeness of the proposal with regard to its methodology, scope, theoretical framework, and grounding in the relevant scholarly literature.
- The impact of the fieldwork on the applicant's research project, if applicable.

Continue

Eligibility

Before beginning your application, you will be asked questions designed to determine preliminary eligibility for this program. Once you have answered the basic eligibility questions, please read all instructions, including those in the PROPOSAL UPLOAD section, before beginning to fill out the application form.

♣ Eligibility Check
1. Will you have a PhD degree conferred (officially awarded) by an accredited university by the application deadline OR are you an established scholar who can demonstrate the equivalent of the PhD in publications and professional experience?
○ Yes ○ No
2. Do you have an affiliationa long-term regular research or teaching appointmentwith an institution (i.e., college, museum, university) in North America (Canada, Mexico, US) or East Central and Southeastern Europe (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine)?
○ Yes ○ No
3. Will you be able to travel to Bulgaria from June 5, 2025 to June 20, 2025?
○ Yes ○ No
Continue

Instructions

Instructions

You may make as many visits to your application as you wish, and revise any information in your application until it has been submitted. In order to be considered, your application must be complete and in **SUBMITTED** status at **9:00 PM Eastern Time on October 30, 2024.**

This application consists of two parts: the application form itself and the uploaded documents (see PROPOSAL UPLOAD).

BEFORE BEGINNING the application form, please read the instructions regarding the PROPOSAL UPLOAD, as well as the following technical instructions.

A. HOW TO SAVE AND SUBMIT YOUR DATA

- 1. Do not use your browser's "BACK" or "FORWARD" buttons for navigation. Instead, use the menu on the left to navigate between screens or the "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button at the bottom of each screen to take you to the next application screen.
- 2. You must **SAVE each time you leave a screen**. If you do not click on SAVE, anything entered since you last hit SAVE on that screen will be lost. (Any work from a previous session will be retained, but any new entries will be lost.) The SAVE button is on the bottom of your screen.
- 3. You may work on your application in as many sessions as you wish, and the status of your application will be **IN PROCESS** until you submit it. Once you are satisfied that your application is complete, you must go to the **SUBMIT APPLICATION**. Once your application has been SUBMITTED, it cannot revert to IN PROCESS status.
- 4. When you have completed your application, pause to check it one last time. We strongly suggest that you print and read your application before submitting it, so that you can be sure there are no further revisions you wish to make. Your print copy should include your uploaded document.
- 5. Your application status bar must show **SUBMITTED** at 9:00 PM Eastern Time on October 30, 2024, in order for it to be considered. ACLS will take no responsibility for applications that are not in SUBMITTED status at the deadline. **Once your application has been SUBMITTED**, **even if it was submitted before the final deadline**, **no changes will be permitted**.
- 6. We strongly urge you to print out and save a copy of the final version of your SUBMITTED application. Your print copy should include your uploaded documents. You can print your application until January 15, 2025.

B. HOW TO ENTER DATA

1. You may begin completing the application at any section.

- 2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, paying attention to spelling, punctuation, and grammar. (For instance, do not use all caps.)
- 3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available characters will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response, be sure your character count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your print application to be sure your response is complete.
- 4. Dates should always be entered in the format mm/yyyy or mm/dd/yyyy where indicated. Where an entry continues into the present, please simply leave the ending date blank (mm/yyyy [blank]).
- 5. Begin typing all answers at the extreme left hand side of the response area or box; do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.
- 6. In all dollar amount fields, use only digits. Please do not use the dollar sign or commas.
- 7. Please avoid using non-Roman characters in the application form as the system cannot process certain characters. Our selection committees understand the technical limitations of the system. Within the Proposal Upload, you may use non-Roman characters, but please view it after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly.

C. HOW TO GET HELP

1. If you have questions about the application process, please consult FAQ (https://www.acls.org/faqs/faq-sisecse/). If your question is not answered there, please email SISECSE@acls.org.

Good luck with your application!

Continue

Address

Contact Information

The information you enter in the Common Profile sections (Contact, Professional Background, Education) will be retained for this application and copied to any other fellowship or grant application you undertake in this competition year. You may edit the information in future applications; however, it will not overwrite data in previously submitted applications.

Contact Information	
Salutation	
Ms.	
First Name	
Sample	
Middle Name/Initial	
Last Name	
Application	
Suffix	
Preferred Pronouns	
Primary Email Address	
sisecse@acls.org	
(should be valid through May 2025)	
	-
	-
Mailing Information	

City	
US State, if applicable	
Select One	~
(If your address is not v	within the United States, please use this field to complete the address information.)
Zip/Postal Code	
(if using a ZIP-plus-4 co	ode, please include hyphen)
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Education

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O Master's							
○ BA/BS							
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List up to six non-Englis	h languages you can	use, indicating	proficiency	in reading, speaking,	and writing. <i>(Use</i>		
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Professional Background

♣ Current Position
Rank / Title
Select One 🗸
(Please choose the most appropriate from the list. If you have no current affiliation, please select "Independent Scholar.")
If you do not hold a faculty appointment, what is the exact title of your current position?
(150 max character limit: <i>character count = 0</i>)
Discipline
(Please indicate here the discipline in which you primarily publish, research, and/or teach. This may be included in an academic title, if you hold one, for example Assistant Professor of French Literature, Lecturer of Philosophy, etc. Write only the name of your discipline, not your title.)
Specialization
Department
Institution
To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation .

Country of Institution
Date you began this position
(mm/yyyy)
Second Institution (if applicable)
If you are currently affiliated with more than one institution, please list the second institution here.
Date you began this position
1
(mm/yyyy)
♣ Positions Held
List positions held (professional, teaching, administrative, curatorial), beginning with the position immediately preceding the one you currently hold. Give the name of the institution, title, and approximate dates of employment for each.
Please remember:
 use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/2015
 use the format mm/yyyy throughout where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
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Program Questions

Current Position	
Are you tenured?	
Select	~
Anticipated date of tenure review completion / (mm/yyyy) If you do not hold an academic appointment, what is your current position?	
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(150 max character limit: <i>character count = 0</i>)	

Awards

Awards

Beginning with the most recent, list up to eight of the grants, fellowships, scholarships, academic honors, or awards you have received, giving in each case the dates, purposes (tuition, travel, expenses, etc.), and, if funded, the approximate amounts. If you are listing only selected awards, choose those that are most significant to the project you are proposing for an ACLS fellowship. Please do not be concerned if you cannot recall exact dates or amounts, and do not feel you must use all eight entries.

Please remember:

Purpose

Award

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/1995
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
- use only numbers in all dollar amount fields, for example, 1000
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

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Research Project

Research Project

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 Southeastern Europe (see the list above). Applicants who do not have tenure-track or permanent positions
 should describe their future commitment to working in North America or East Central and Southeastern
 Europe.
- There are no restrictions as to the citizenship of applicants.
- The application must be submitted in English, but the written work produced may be in any language.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

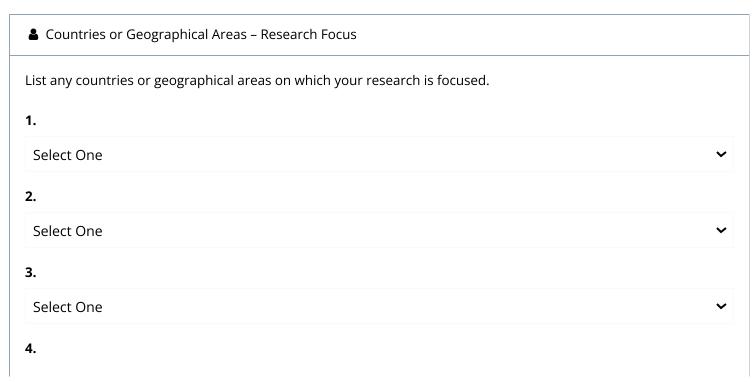
Applications must include:

- A completed application form including demographic information.
- An application essay (no more than four double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica11-point font). The application essay should lay out the research project—what it is about, its location in the current literature, what sources are to be examined, and how the applicant plans to carry out the work.
- An optional one to two pages of images, musical scores, or other similar supporting non-text materials.
- A bibliography (no more than two pages, double-spaced between entries, in Arial or Helvetica11-point font).
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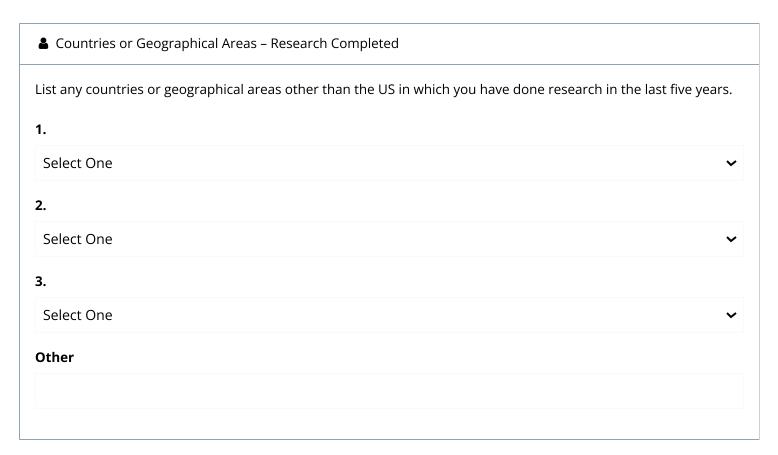
EVALUATION CRITERIA

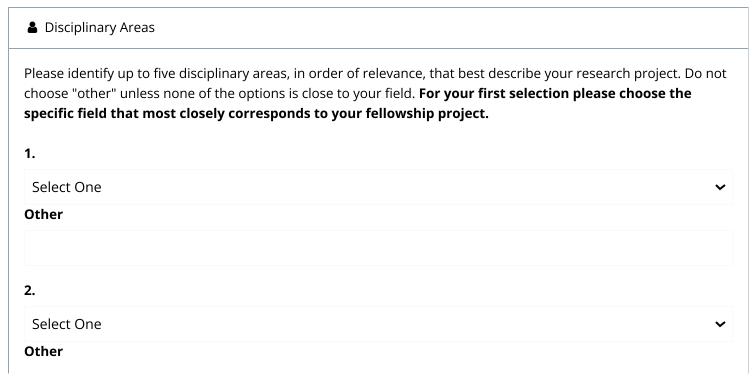
- Significance of the topic and its potential contribution to the study of East Central and Southeastern Europe.
- The quality and innovativeness of the proposal with regard to its methodology, scope, theoretical framework, and grounding in the relevant scholarly literature.

Research Proposal Title	
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Research Proposal Abstract	
(800 max character limit: <i>character count = 0</i>)	
If there is a web page associated with your project, please provide the URL here:	









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Administrative Information

Administrative Information

This information is REQUIRED (except as noted). It is for administrative purposes only and will not be distributed as part of the selection process.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/1995
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout, except where mm/dd/yyyy is specifically requested
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
- use only numbers in all dollar amount fields, for example, 1000
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

Current salary

0.00

(do not add benefits or summer salary)

What is your country of citizenship?

Select One

ORCID iD (Optional)

ORCID ID

ACLS encourages all applicants to provide an ORCID iD as part of their application. Learn more (https://www.acls.org/FAQ/ACLS-Fellowships).

The record search feature works for public ORCID records only. (click here to search ORCID)

Sources of Support - Confirmed

/24, 12:15 PW	Administrative information Summer institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe
in connection witl	s of support, for example, sabbatical salary, other fellowships and grants, ALREADY CONFIRMED h your proposed research project or planned total period of research leave. Also indicate the punt of funding and period of support. Please convert all monetary amounts into United States
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☐ Latina/o/x or Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ East Asian American ☐ South Asian American ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Middle Eastern or Arab American Other: ☐ I prefer not to answer this question. ▲ Informational Purposes Only 1. How did you learn about this program? (Please select all that apply.) Higher Education publication (e.g., Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed) ☐ Dean or other administrator ☐ University fellowship/grants office ☐ ACLS website Other website (e.g. H-Net) Please specify:

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American Society for Aesthetics
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
American Society for Environmental History
American Society for Legal History
American Society for Theatre Research
American Society of Church History
American Society of Comparative Law
American Society of International Law
American Society of Overseas Research
American Sociological Association
American Studies Association
Archaeological Institute of America
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Jewish Studies
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Association for Study of African American Life and History
Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
Association of American Law Schools
Austrian Studies Association
☐ Bibliographical Society of America
☐ College Art Association
College Forum of the National Council of Teachers of English
☐ Dictionary Society of North America
Economic History Association
☐ German Studies Association
☐ Hispanic Society of America
☐ History of Science Society
☐ International Center of Medieval Art
Latin American Studies Association
Law and Society Association
☐ Linguistic Society of America
☐ Medieval Academy of America
☐ Metaphysical Society of America
☐ Middle East Studies Association of North America
☐ Modern Language Association of America
National Communication Association
National Council on Public History

☐ National Women's Studies Association
☐ North American Conference on British Studies
North American Victorian Studies Association
☐ Oral History Association
Organization of American Historians
☐ Philosophy of Science Association
Renaissance Society of America
☐ Rhetoric Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Sixteenth Century Society and Conference
☐ Society for American Music
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
☐ Society for Classical Studies
☐ Society for Ethnomusicology
Society for French Historical Studies
☐ Society for Military History
☐ Society for Music Theory
☐ Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
\square Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
\square Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
☐ Society for the History of Technology
☐ Society of Architectural Historians
☐ Society of Biblical Literature
☐ Society of Dance History Scholars
☐ World History Association
ACLS Affiliates
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
☐ Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Art Museum Curators
Association of College & Research Libraries
Association of Research Libraries
☐ Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
☐ Center for Research Libraries
☐ Community College Humanities Association
Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
☐ Federation of State Humanities Councils
☐ International Society for Third-Sector Research
☐ Phi Beta Kappa
3. Please identify all ACLS fellowship programs (if any) to which you have previously applied.
5. I least menting an Acts renowship problems (in any) to which you have previously applied.

7/10/24, 12:15 PM	Administrative Information Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe			
☐ ACLS Fellowship				
☐ ACLS Collaborative	Research Fellowship			
☐ ACLS Digital Extensi	on Grant			
☐ ACLS Digital Innova	tion Fellowship			
☐ ACLS Emerging Void	es Fellowship			
☐ ACLS Leading Edge	Fellowship			
☐ ACLS New Faculty F	ellows			
☐ Charles A. Ryskamp	Research Fellowship			
☐ Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship				
☐ Getty/ACLS Postdoo	☐ Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Art			
Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art				
☐ Luce/ACLS Fellowsh	ips in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs			
☐ Luce/ACLS Program	in China Studies			
☐ Mellon/ACLS Comm	nunity College Faculty Fellowship			
☐ Mellon/ACLS Disser	☐ Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship			
☐ Mellon/ACLS Public	Fellows			
☐ Mellon/ACLS Schola	ars & Society Fellowship			

☐ The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies

 $\hfill \square$ CCK Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Culture and Society

☐ African Humanities Program

Proposal Upload

Proposal Upload

To complete your application package, in addition to the application form, you must upload the following items: an application essay, optional additional materials, a bibliography, a list of publications, and an applicant's statement. Your application essay, optional additional materials, bibliography, publications list, and applicant's statement should be uploaded as **one continuous document in this order**. In order to be reviewed, documents must adhere to the specified page limits and formatting.

1A) APPLICATION ESSAY

The application essay will be the basis of the evaluation of the project. The application essay should lay out the larger research project – what it is about, its location in the current literature, what sources are to be examined, and how the applicant plans to carry out the work.

The application must propose research, but the selection committee will consider its broader impact, as outlined in the essay.

The application essay must not exceed four double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

1B) OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Applicants may submit images, musical scores, or other similar supporting non-text materials.

The additional materials must not exceed one to two pages.

1C) BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography should provide an overview of essential references for your project, and it should balance the various sorts of key materials being used.

The bibliography must not exceed two pages, double-spaced between entries, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

1D) PUBLICATIONS LIST

Publications resulting from previous research are an important factor in evaluating proposals from applicants. Applicants should indicate if any of their publications resulted from prior ACLS funding.

The publications list must not exceed two pages, double-spaced between entries, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

1E) APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

The applicant's statement should describe the type of research, writing, or fieldwork an applicant intends to carry out in Bulgaria, the impact of this work on the applicant's research project, and the applicant's interest in participating in interdisciplinary conversations. The statement may also describe the applicant's intellectual trajectory and experiences that brought them to the current stage of academic career and that motivate plans for the future. Applicants who do not have tenure-track or permanent positions should describe their future commitment to working in North America or East Central and Southeastern Europe, as well as what they see themselves doing five years from now. ACLS is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the fellowship application process. Please use the applicant's statement to note any relevant information about your personal background and/or ways in which your proposed research addresses issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The applicant's statement must not exceed two double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

2) DOCUMENT SPECIFICATIONS:

- Items 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E must be uploaded as one continuous document.
- Margins must be at least one inch on all sides.
- Use Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.
- There is a 3 MB limit on the size of your upload.
- Your application will be converted to Portable Document Format (.pdf). Keep formatting simple to avoid problems in the converted document.
- If your proposal includes non-Roman characters, please view it after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly. If not, you may have to convert your document to .pdf and upload again to resolve formatting problems.
- Use the header/footer function to number pages. Do not type the numbers directly into each page of your document text. You may number pages consecutively throughout the entire document, or you may number the different sections separately. Page numbers are most helpful on the proposal, so you may omit them on the other items if you wish.
- Please adhere to the word-count and page limits listed above. Note: The .pdf conversion process can cause some slight formatting changes. If your converted document exceeds the limit only slightly (but your original document did not), please do not be concerned.
- If you have difficulty with your upload, consult the FAQ/technical support (https://ofa.acls.org/programs/faq/default.aspx#tech) before contacting us.

3) INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING YOUR DOCUMENTS:

Your items should be collated in this order—application essay, optional additional materials, bibliography, publications list, and applicant's statement—and submitted as **one** file.

Files will be accepted in the following formats **ONLY**:

Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Text only (.txt), or Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). **Your file MUST include the appropriate extension** (e.g., ".doc"); if you are on a Mac, you will need to enter the extension as part of the file name.

The buttons below will allow you to upload your documents. You will be able to browse your computer system to select the file to be uploaded. When you have completed the upload, your file name should appear under "FILE UPLOAD STATUS" below as a blue link. You can confirm that the file has uploaded successfully by clicking on the

NOT UPLOADED

blue link and viewing your file. Sometimes the process takes a little time: if your file name does not appear as a blue link, refresh the screen using the refresh button in your browser tool bar, or simply leave this screen and come back to it.

As long as your application is still "In Process," you can upload revised versions of your document by simply repeating the upload process and selecting the new/revised version. (This may have the same file name or a new file name.) When you click on "Upload Document" the revised version will be recorded and the old version erased.

Application Essay, Optional Additional Materials, Bibliography, Publications List, and Applicant's Statement:

Upload Files Continue

Submit

Submit Application

Before submitting your application, make sure you have

- answered all appropriate questions
- completed and saved all screens
- uploaded successfully your proposal and accompanying documents

We suggest that you view and/or print your application (/programs/sisecse/print/? sid=pphtpFO2LLXsBwOW4nNi8VTlzl2s3p2JPV@4sibPHUMFTCvawWaL0kC!JQ0gy6OW0pJlk@1MwnoFOhYE!7QVlU0c3C one last time before submitting it since **no revisions are allowed after submission**. Your view/print (/programs/sise sid=TQ9yWA5PIXMGWDk@LVkH7lpchAy0EXLM3lkpRX9N1kN5KMfNNG03QcRaNLh7rwlbLuG1F0J71HQu5yK3ERXKBBs copy should include your uploaded document. If it does not, click the OFA HELP button above for assistance.

An application that is submitted, but is not complete, will not be considered. An application that is complete, but is not submitted, will not be considered.

I have completed the application, and would like to **SUBMIT** it for ACLS consideration.

SUBMIT APPLICATION