

Guide to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Online Application

U.S. & Canada 2026 Competition

(REVISED SEPTEMBER 2025)

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Overview

The competition is open only to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada. All applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application.

Please note that all prospective applicants must first register and create an account. **If you have already created an account in last year's 2025 competition, you may log in to your account and make an application for this year. If not, you must first create an account.** The following data is required: first and last name, email address and a password of your own making. You may also create a username for the account (optional) or link your telephone number to the account (optional).

Alternatively, you may also create your Guggenheim account using your Google account.

After you submit the form, a verification code will be sent to you so you can confirm the account. Once you verify the account, you can log in and begin your application.

The application form, which is completed and submitted electronically, is composed of nine sections:

- Contact Information
- Project Information
- Addresses
- Positions
- Languages
- Organizations
- Education
- References
- Supporting Documents

You may complete the various sections in any order you wish. You may return to any part of the application to make changes, if necessary, until you submit the completed application to the Foundation. When all the required information has been provided, you must submit the application by selecting the "Final Submit Application" button no later than the deadline, Tuesday, September 16, 2025 (11:59 pm EDT). Applications received later than September 16 will not be accepted.

Please focus your application on one project only. Applications that attempt to span too many disparate disciplines or include too many objectives are less competitive than those that propose a balanced, focused goal.

An applicant proposing a co-authored or co-created project **must** submit a joint application along with the other person; that is, each person must submit a separate application, indicating on each application that you are applying jointly.

Section One – Contact Information

In this section of the application, you must provide the following data: your name, email address, date of birth, place of birth, gender (optional), personal pronouns, institutional affiliation and title, and citizenship status. **Please note that applicants are not required to be affiliated with an institution to apply here.** If you are self-employed or if you are an independent artist/writer/scholar and not affiliated with a company, university or institution, you may enter “none,” “not applicable,” or “NA” in the institution field.

If you are not a native-born citizen of the United States or Canada, you must provide your U.S. or Canadian permanent residency or naturalization information in the Citizenship Note data field.

Section Two – Project Information

In this section of the application, you are required to enter information about your project: Project Title, Project Field(s), and whether you are applying jointly with another person.

If you have a personal website(s), you may enter the address (URL) in the Website field(s). Please make sure that you enter a valid web address (e.g., <https://www.your-name.com>) and not an email address (e.g., your-name@email.com). Also, please use the full <http://> or <https://> format when inputting the website address.

Most applications are from individual applicants, but we do accept joint applications. **Joint applicants usually conceive of a project together and work equally on a project.** If they are awarded the Fellowship, both are named Fellows and share one award. If you are applying jointly with another applicant, enter the name of the person in the “Joint Applicant Name” field.

Please note that if two applicants are applying jointly, each person must submit a separate application, indicating on each application that you are applying jointly. We do not accept applications from more than two people working together.

Joint applicants should list the same project field(s) and project title on both applications. (In the Supporting Documents section, joint applicants should also submit an identical Statement of Plans. It is fine if each person discusses their individual contribution to the project in the plan. Also, in the References section, the same four references should be listed for both applications unless there is no set of references who are familiar with the work of both candidates.)

An applicant will often work with others in the pursuit of their proposed projects. In those instances, the collaborative nature of the project is merely discussed in the Statement of Plans, and the applicant applies as an individual. However, if the nature of a project is such that there are two equal contributors to the project, it is likely that both individuals should apply jointly. If you have any questions regarding joint applications, please contact our Program Director at competition@gf.org.

When you have finished entering the required information in this section of the application, make sure you indicate that it is complete by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Three – Addresses

In this section of the application, you are required to provide your contact information: home address or office address, email addresses, telephone numbers, etc. **Make sure that you indicate whether your home or office is your preferred contact address.**

The Foundation will contact applicants only via email. To ensure that spam-filtering software does not block our emails, you should **add the Foundation’s domains, @gf.org and @mail.gf.org, to your address book or approved contacts list.**

Also, you are asked to provide the name and address information for an emergency/alternate contact – for example, a spouse, relative, friend, etc. We will only use this information to contact you if we are unable to reach you via your home or office information. **Please do not enter your own name and contact information in this field.**

When you have finished entering the required information in this section of the application, make sure you indicate that it is complete by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Four – Positions

In this section, you may provide information about positions you hold or have held in past years: i.e., your employment or job history. The list of positions need not be exhaustive, and may be professional, academic, administrative, or business in nature. Free-lance work or self-employment may be listed as well. If you have no positions to list, you may leave this section blank. If you hold an academic position, please list your job title in full as well as the name of the relevant academic department.

When you have finished entering whatever information you wish to provide, make sure you indicate that this section is complete (even if it’s blank) by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Five – Languages

You may enter information about your foreign language skills and proficiency in this section of the application (for example, Spanish, French, Arabic, ASL, etc.). If you have no information to enter, you may leave this section blank.

When you have finished entering whatever information you wish to provide, make sure you indicate that this section is complete (even if it’s blank) by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Six – Organizations

You may enter information about professional organizations, associations, or societies of which you are a member. For example, if you have membership in an art society or learned society, enter the information. Do not put any job positions you have held in the Organizations section. If you are not a member of any type of professional organization, simply leave this section blank. Do not include social or casual memberships.

When you have finished entering whatever information you wish to provide, make sure you indicate that this section is complete (even if it's blank) by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Seven – Education

Please provide information about your educational history (i.e., institutions, dates of attendance, levels, degrees, etc.). When you have finished entering your data, make sure that you indicate that this section is complete by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Eight – References

In this section, you are asked to provide the names and full contact information **for up to four people** who are familiar with your work and can comment on your abilities, especially in relation to your project proposal. Those who are familiar with your recent work and can comment on the whole course of your career will make the best references. Individuals who have a business or financial interest in your work – such as dealers, agents, and editors – would not be the most impartial references to provide and would not be considered especially useful. Please request the permission of each person whom you list as a reference before listing them. It is your responsibility, not the Foundation's, to ensure the accuracy of a reference's email or mailing address.

The Foundation will contact all references only via email. Reference letter requests will be sent out in mid-October. We do not accept reference letters from dossier services such as Interfolio. We prefer letters written specifically for our competition.

To ensure that spam-filtering software does not block our emails to references **you should instruct your references to add the Foundation's domains, @gf.org and @mail.gf.org, to their address books or approved lists.**

All statements by references to the Foundation are held in the strictest confidence. The Foundation considers both the content and the receipt of letters confidential. Consequently, you will not be informed of the status of your reference letters.

When you have finished entering the required information in this section of the application, make sure you indicate that it is complete by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Section Nine – Supporting Documents

You are required to submit three supplementary statements in PDF format:

- Career Narrative
- List of Work
- Statement of Plans

Documents MUST be in PDF format, double-spaced, unsecured (not password-protected), and all pages should be A4 or Letter-Size (8.5" x 11") and in portrait orientation. Use only standard fonts (e.g., Arial, Times New Roman, Helvetica, Georgia, etc.). Font size should be 12-point. Please make sure that all scanned PDFs are in portrait orientation. A PDF document with a file size larger than 5 MB cannot be uploaded. You may wish to examine your documents' properties before you upload them.

If you need assistance converting the supporting documents to PDFs, please consult the **Helpful hints** section of this guide on page 10.

Career Narrative

The **Career Narrative** is a brief prose account of your career, describing your previous accomplishments. Please do not substitute a resume. It should mention prizes, honors, and significant grants or fellowships that you have held or now hold, showing the grantor and the inclusive dates of each award.

The maximum length of the Career Narrative is 1,000 words (approximately 4 pages double-spaced).

List of Work

The **List of Work** should be chronological and include no more than **10 of your most significant works**. You may also include work in progress.

Please note that it is NOT intended to be a list of the work example material that you may be later submitting in support of your application.

If you are a scholar, scientist, or writer, the list should reflect your publications. For books, please provide exact titles, names of publishers, and dates and places of publication. Playwrights and performance artists should include a list of up to 10 works. Scholars and scientists may provide hyperlinks to listed publications.

If you are an artist or photographer, please list up to 10 exhibitions or shows (citing dates and places), as well up to 10 collections in which your work is represented. Forthcoming shows may also be mentioned.

Choreographers should submit a list of up to 10 choreographic works or performances, including locations and dates.

Composers should submit a chronological list of up to 10 compositions. For each composition, you may also include information regarding its debut performance (date, location, and performers), published score (publication date and publisher), and/or recordings.

Film or video makers should submit up to 10 films and/or videos, citing titles and dates of completion, and dates and places of major public showings of each. Also indicate your role(s) in the making of each work when applicable (e.g., director, writer, editor, animator, etc.).

Statement of Plans

The **Statement of Plans** is a concise description of the project you plan to work on during the Fellowship period. **The maximum length for the Statement of Plans is 1,000 words (approximately 4 pages double-spaced).** An additional page of endnotes or bibliography may be included but is not required. Any diagrams, illustrations, or other graphic elements should be incorporated within the body of the plan.

Applicants in science or scholarship should provide a detailed, but concise, plan of research. Please note that, although it is common for scientific proposals to be written in first-person plural, we ask that the Statement of Plans be written in first-person singular. It should also be clear that the proposed project is indeed an individual initiative, and not a group-authored project. **Group projects will not be considered.**

Applicants in the arts should submit a brief Statement of Plans describing the proposed artistic project.

Financial considerations do not play a part in our evaluations, and applicants should not include a budget in the Statement of Plans. Candidates who are nominated for Fellowships will be asked to submit financial information.

Your Statement of Plans should be self-contained. That is, it should be readily understood without accessing other portions of your application. Because the individuals who write letters on your behalf will receive only your Statement of Plans, they will not be able to consult your Career Narrative, List of Work, or Work Examples.

Submitting (uploading) the three supporting documents

As mentioned above, the three supporting documents must be in PDF format to be uploaded into your application. **It is required that you submit all three documents.** Applications missing documents will not be processed. The instructions on how to upload the documents are as follows:

1. For each of the three document types, you may either drag & drop the document into the appropriate location or select **Browse** to browse through your computer to locate the PDF file you wish to upload.
2. After you have selected the PDF document, select the **Upload Files** button to save the documents with your application.

Lastly, when you have uploaded all three of your supporting documents, make sure that you indicate that this section is complete by selecting the **Acknowledge** button.

Final submission of the completed application

When you have completed and acknowledged all nine sections of the application, you will be ready to submit your application to the Foundation for consideration. Acknowledged sections are indicated by small check marks next to the section names on your application's home page.

If a section is not acknowledged, enter the section, and acknowledge it. If you are unable to acknowledge the section, you have most likely missed filling out a required data field.

If there is a required data field that must be completed but is not applicable, you may enter “none,” “n/a” or “NA.” Non-required data fields may be left blank.

Submit your completed application by accessing the **Submit Application** section. Read the text and acknowledge that you have reviewed your application for accuracy, acknowledge that you have accepted our Privacy Notice terms, then click the **Final Submit Application** button. After you final-submit, you will receive an acknowledgment email. If you would like a PDF copy of your application after final submission, you can download it on your application home page. (If you would like a PDF copy of your application-in-progress at any point prior to final-submission, you can also download it in this section.)

Submission of work examples in support of your application

After your application is submitted and processed, you may also receive a separate email later with instructions to submit examples of your work. **Please do not submit work examples until you receive these further instructions.**

- Applicants in science need not submit examples of their work.
- Applicants in scholarship should submit examples of previous work, following the procedures described below.
- Applicants in all the arts **must** submit examples of previous work in order for their applications to receive full consideration by our advisers. **If you do not submit examples, you will not receive consideration.**

Our email regarding submission of examples will instruct you to log in to our **Work Example Submission** webpage. **Follow the directions on the webpage to upload the digital files and/or links that you are submitting in support of your application.**

Applicants for the 2026 competition should submit all work samples to the Foundation no later than October 31, 2025.

After you final-submit your work examples, you will receive a confirmation email listing the work examples that you submitted.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of your submitted work within a reasonable time, please contact the Foundation at competition@gf.org.

Types of work examples to submit

Recent work is generally the most pertinent. Applicants who are not directly covered in the following categories should follow the procedure outlined for the category closest to their own.

You should not exclusively submit examples that are co-created, co-directed, etc., unless you are applying jointly with another person. For us to properly evaluate your application as an individual artist, writer or scholar, most of your submitted work examples should not be jointly created works.

Painters, sculptors, and graphic artists should submit no more than twenty digital images of recent works (e.g., from the last five years). You may include different views of individual pieces if you wish. (Please note that separate images showing different views of an individual piece all count towards the twenty-image limit.) Each image should be in JPEG or PNG format.

We prefer the images to be uploaded in descending chronological order, that is, from most recent to the oldest work, but this is not mandatory. For example, photographers who prefer their images to be viewed in a certain order should upload the images in the sequence that they wish them to be viewed.

Installation or new media artists may submit samples as online links (follow instructions below for film and video makers).

Scholars should submit examples of **published books in PDF format; do not submit journal articles, edited volumes, book chapters or essays.** Submit no more than three different titles. (We are aware that in certain academic fields, publication in peer-reviewed journals is the usual custom, and not all scholars publish books. If you primarily publish journal articles, and do not submit any book PDFs, it will not adversely affect your application.)

Poets, playwrights, screenwriters, and writers of fiction and general nonfiction must submit examples of **published books**, both as uploaded **PDF** files and as **physical copies** (hardcover or paperback) mailed to the Foundation. You may submit no more than three different titles, and you should mail two copies per title. **Playwrights and screenwriters are permitted to submit unpublished manuscripts since plays and screenplays are not always published.**

Books and manuscripts will not be returned.

Published writing not regarded as appropriate includes self-published works, publications for which the author has paid, and publications by publishers who do not engage in a process of critical review of submitted work. In addition, genre work (e.g., mysteries, romance, fantasy, etc.) is considered not competitive. We do not consider children's or young adult books.

Whenever possible, please print out the confirmation email that is sent to you upon final submission of your online registry and include it in the package with your books. Please address your package in the following manner:

Attn: Work Examples/Creative Writing
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
90 Park Avenue
33rd Floor
New York, NY 10016

If you are in the New York area, you may drop off your package in person, Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, via the Messenger Center at 90 Park Avenue. The security desk in the building lobby can direct you to the messenger center.

Photographers should submit no more than twenty digital images (follow the same instructions above for painters, sculptors, and graphic artists). Photographers may also submit photography books as PDF files (no more than three separate titles). In addition to the required digital images/book PDFs, photographers may submit physical prints of the images and physical copies

of the photography books. Any physical prints that are submitted should match the digital images that are uploaded, and the same for any photography books that are submitted.

Please print out the confirmation email that is issued to you upon final submission of your work examples registry and include it in your portfolio. Please address your package in the following manner:

Attn: Work Examples/Photography
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
90 Park Avenue
33rd Floor
New York, NY 10016

Your prints may be mounted or unmounted and should be no longer than 32 inches along the largest dimension. The total weight of your prints (including the shipping container) should not exceed 40 pounds. If your prints are normally displayed at a larger size, you may include an explanatory note. Each photograph should be labeled on the back with your name and the title and date of the work.

Portfolios which exceed these requirements will not be accepted. They will be disqualified and returned at your own expense.

If you are in the New York area, you may drop off your portfolio in person, Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, via the Messenger Center at 90 Park Avenue. The security desk in the building lobby can direct you to the Messenger Center.

If you would like your prints and photography books to be returned, the Foundation will return them via FedEx, UPS, or in-person pickup for applicants in the New York area. Please enclose a return FedEx or UPS shipping label in the package with your work examples (preferred) or enclose a note with your return address and FedEx or UPS account number.

Theatre or performance artists may submit videos of your work via online links (follow instructions below for film and video makers).

Composers may submit three recent full-length works as online links, along with accompanying PDF scores if the compositions are notated. Whenever possible, the scores and the recordings should be for the same works.

Film and video makers should submit no more than three films or video works as online links. You should not submit more than one example that is co-created, co-directed, etc., if you are applying as an individual filmmaker or video artist. **Subtitles should be provided for all non-English language films.**

Specific cue points may be provided for film or video submissions when you register the work online, but applicants should submit full-length works whenever possible. **Trailers should not be submitted.**

Choreographers should submit no more than three examples of choreographic works, as links, following the same instructions above for film and video makers.

Technical specifications for work examples

Documents:

- Allowed file type: .pdf
- Maximum file size per document: 100 MB

Images:

- Allowed file types: .jpg, .jpeg, .png
- Size per file: up to 5 MB
- Width and height: up to 2048 x 2048 pixels
- DPI: up to 72 ppi

Time-based Media:

- Allowed links: Vimeo, YouTube or SoundCloud links.
- Time duration: No time cutoff; we prefer full-length works to be submitted.

Links to personal websites, Bandcamp, Dropbox and Google Drive will not be accepted.

Notification of application results

Applicants will be notified in April 2026 of the official results via email.

Helpful hints

If you are unable to acknowledge a section of the application, make certain that all required data fields have been completed for that section.

Converting supporting documents to PDF format: Applicants with Apple (Mac OS) computers can usually convert documents to PDF format by selecting the “Save as PDF” option in the Print menu. Current versions of MS Word have a “Save to PDF” option, as well. Commercial products such as Adobe Acrobat Professional will also allow the creation of PDF files. Applicants with PCs (Microsoft Windows) can also use free websites such as <https://xodo.com/word-to-pdf>, <https://gonitro.com/word-to-pdf> or use Google to find similar websites to convert documents to PDFs. The Foundation neither reviews, endorses, nor controls the content and accuracy of these websites, and therefore cannot be responsible for their content and accuracy. Your use of these websites is at your sole risk.

The Foundation cannot offer any support for the creation of PDFs. **Documents must be double-spaced, unsecured (not password protected) and pages should be A4 or Letter-Size (8.5” x 11”) and in portrait orientation. Use only standard fonts (e.g., Arial, Times New Roman, Helvetica, Georgia, etc.). Font size should be 12-point. Please make sure that all scanned PDFs are in portrait orientation.**

If you have any questions not covered here, feel free to email the Foundation's program director at competition@gf.org.