

# LYDIA MENDOZA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 2024-2025

## Application Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Do I have to be currently enrolled in CUNY to apply?**

No. You can be enrolled in a New York area university by this fall 2024. Priority will be given to CUNY students.

### **Do I have to be Mexican?**

No, the scholarship is open to people of any nationality.

### **Does my immigration status matter?**

No, many of our scholarship recipients are undocumented and many are DACA recipients. DACA is not required for eligibility. The committee does not discriminate based on immigration status.

### **Does it matter which CUNY I attend?**

No, scholarship winners may enroll in any of the 25 CUNY campuses.

### **How will I know if my application has been received?**

You will receive an automatic confirmation email that your application has been received and that we have all the supporting materials.

### **How will I be notified about my application results?**

All applicants will be notified via email if they have been awarded a fellowship. Make sure to provide an email that you consistently check.

### **How are applicants selected as recipients of The Lydia Mendoza Fellowship?**

An independent committee reviews the applicants and selects the recipients based on the fellowship criteria.

### **Why was I not selected for The Lydia Mendoza Graduate Fellowship?**

The independent selection committee using a ranking system assigns points for each section in the application. Those earning the highest points are considered for the Fellowship. If you did not fall among those ranking the highest you cannot be considered for the Fellowship.

**I was called for an Interview, now what?**

Please schedule the interview as soon as possible. Notification of a scheduled interview is not a guarantee of the fellowship.

**If selected as a winner can I defer my award to another academic year?**

The current high demand for the fellowship does not allow for us to hold the award. If you cannot take the award this academic year, you may decline and you may reapply in the future.

**How will I get the money from the scholarship?**

The funds will be disbursed to the awardee in two equal installments to cover the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters.

**Does the award cover all of my educational expenses?**

Yes, while the award funding will cover most or all of your tuition for one year, it may also be used to cover student fees, transportation, books, or other expenses.

**I am an international student. Can I apply for the fellowship?**

Yes, you can apply to be considered for the fellowship but priority will be given to instate students who have limited access to financial aid.

**What if I work and cannot commit to an internship program?**

Our vision is to provide our students with opportunities to gain professional experience and create networks. If you believe that you are not able to commit to an internship program, this might not be the right opportunity for you. Our staff is always open to work on a 1 on 1 basis to create a plan.

**What if I am the head of household and cannot commit to studying full time?**

If selected for the scholarship you will have to apply for a full time status waiver. The purpose of the waiver is to request consideration to be able to continue with the program when the student cannot enroll full-time. There is no guarantee of a waiver and decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Except for those granted a waiver, all recipients must maintain full time enrollment status to receive the award.

**Can I lose the award after I am selected as a winner?**

Failure to comply with the following conditions may result in the suspension or revocation of fellowship award and future eligibility: Full-time enrollment at a CUNY school, participation in monthly seminars, completion of a 200-hour internship in an affiliated nonprofit institution,

continuous involvement with the Institute and recipient's network in events and activities. There is a midyear evaluation in which students' progress on completion of the requirements is measured.

**What if I change my recommender?**

Immediately contact us with the updated name of your new recommender.

**What if my recommender declines to write a letter?**

If a recommender declines to write a letter on your behalf (it happens for many reasons), do not be disappointed or discouraged. Sit down and consider who would be willing to write a letter for you. You should have two to three people who you can reach out to and ask in the case that your primary one declines.

**Where can my recommender upload my recommendation letter?**

Your recommender will have to upload their letter online. You can share this link with them:

<https://mexicanstudies.formstack.com/forms/recommenderlmendoza24>

**Does my most recent transcript have to be official?**

No. Applicants may submit an unofficial transcript.