National Institute for Direct Instruction Research Fellowship

2009 Application

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DIRECT INSTRUCTION
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

General Information

The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing superior training and support for Direct Instruction implementations. NIFDI is uniquely qualified for this task in that its founding members include the creators of Direct Instruction (DI). Its leaders have more than 30 years of experience with school and district implementations of DI in all types of environments.

NIFDI announces the opening of a competition for fellowships to support research on Direct Instruction and promote the development of emerging scholars in the field of education. Multiple fellowships will be awarded. Two types of awards will be given: fellowships to support graduate student dissertation or thesis projects and postdoctoral fellowships to support emerging and/or established scholars. Priority for the graduate awards will be given to projects conducted by doctoral candidates as part of their dissertation research. Proposals from masters' candidates and faculty supervising the work of numerous students will also be considered.

Projects may address a variety of issues regarding Direct Instruction. **Those that examine the efficacy of DI curricular programs and incorporate random assignment of students, classrooms, or schools will be given the highest priority.** Studies that include subjects with varying demographic characteristics and in different community settings are encouraged. Additional topics that might be examined include the fidelity of implementation, the relationship of Direct Instruction to behavioral issues and self-esteem, and the role of Direct Instruction in teacher retention and satisfaction.

Potential applicants are encouraged to send preliminary inquiries to:

Dr. Jean Stockard, Director of Research
National Institute for Direct Instruction
805 Lincoln Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401
E-mail: research@nifdi.org
Toll-free: 877-485-1973

Guidelines

1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

NIFDI Graduate research fellowships are open to both masters' and doctoral students, with strong preference for doctoral students. The applicant must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time the fellowship would begin. NIFDI Postdoctoral research fellowships are open to scholars who have finished their graduate work and received a doctoral degree.

2. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria for funding decisions will include:

1. the quality of the research proposal;
2. the extent to which the project will add to the research literature;
3. the probability that the work will be completed in the time period specified in the proposal;
4. the extent to which sufficient support is available from faculty and involved schools and classrooms;
5. the type of research design, with randomized assignment of subjects given the highest priority;
6. the extent to which implementations of DI are designed to ensure high fidelity and to adhere to the highest standards of practice.

The National Institute for Direct Instruction Fellowship Program does not discriminate on grounds of race, creed, sex, age, marital status, condition of handicap, or national origin of any applicant.

3. AWARDS FOR 2009

NIFDI Graduate Fellows will receive a grant of $5,000 to $10,000 to help support their research. NIFDI Postdoctoral Fellowships will range from $8,000 to $12,000. All awards will be in the form of grants to individuals. NIFDI does not provide indirect costs to institutions. NIFDI Fellows will also be given access to the technical resources and support of the National Institute for Direct Instruction throughout the duration of their fellowship. This includes the on-line database of abstracts of Direct Instruction publications and the full text archive of DI publications.

All funds provided under NIFDI fellowships may be subject to tax. Any taxes that may be owed are the sole responsibility of the recipient. Recipients are encouraged to contact a tax professional.

4. ARCHIVING OF DATA

Fellows will be expected to give NIFDI copies of the dissertation or thesis and related articles resulting from their research and, at the conclusion of their research, to deposit raw data in the NIFDI archives. If NIFDI uses the data in future research studies the Fellow who gathered the data would be fully acknowledged and, if possible, included in any additional research endeavors making use of the data set.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

Two rounds of review will be conducted in 2009. The deadline for the first round of consideration is April 3, 2009 with award announcements expected by May 1. The second deadline is July 15, 2009 with award announcements expected by mid-August**. Final applications must be postmarked by the designated date** (**April 3, 2009** for the first round of review or **July 15, 2009** for the second round).

Specific Instructions

I. COVER SHEET*:* Complete the attached two-page form, which must be signed and dated.

II. RESEARCH PROPOSAL*:* The full statement of your research, not to exceed 15 pages. Proposals should be typed or word processed using either 11 or 12 point font.

Please be sure to address the following:

a. a description of how the proposed study relates to previous work in the field,
b. the specific research question(s) the study seeks to answer,
c. a complete description of the methodology that will be used, and
d. a timeline for the project

Please submit **BOTH** of the following:

a. one hard copy of the complete application
b. an electronic version as a PDF or Word document either via email (research@nifdi.org) or on a CD included with the hard copy. It is not necessary to include letters of recommendation or commitment in the electronic version.

Completed applications should be mailed to: **Dr. Jean Stockard, Director of Research, National Institute for Direct Instruction, 805 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401**

III. CURRICULUM VITAE OR RESUME*:* including previous and current grants, a list of all publications, and a description of your research interests.

IV. LETTERS OF REFERENCE evaluating your proposal. Attached is a copy of an explanatory letter to send to your referee along with your proposal. All reference letters are considered confidential unless confidentiality is waived by the referee. **Letters of reference should be enclosed with your application in a sealed envelope signed by the referee on the flap. If preferable, referees may email their letter of reference directly to NIFDI at research@nifdi.org. Graduate students must include a letter of reference from their advisor or major professor. Applicants for the Postdoctoral Fellowship may have a letter from an advisor or, if more than three years removed from receipt of the degree, from another scholar familiar with their work.**

V. LETTER OF COMMITMENT from each participating school and/or other entity involved with the research that indicates a commitment to provide the support needed to complete the study. **This letter should be printed on the school's letterhead.**

VI. DOCUMENTATION OF APPROVAL of the proposal from an Institutional Review Board for the protection of Human Subjects.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DIRECT INSTRUCTION

January 2009

To Referees of NIFDI Fellowship Applicants:

The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) offers fellowships to support graduate student research on Direct Instruction (DI) and promote the development of emerging scholars in the field of education. You are being asked by an applicant for a NIFDI Fellowship to serve as a referee and to evaluate the enclosed proposal.

Please provide an evaluation of the proposal, considering the quality of the proposed research. We also solicit your comments regarding the applicant's ability and his or her potential contribution to the field. In addition, we ask that you disclose any perceived conflict of interest in providing a reference for this applicant.

All reference letters will be considered confidential and the contents will not be revealed to the applicant unless confidentiality has been specifically waived by the referee. Please send your letter to the applicant in a sealed envelope signed over the flap. Reference letters should be enclosed by the applicant with the completed application form and proposal. If you prefer, you may email your letter of reference directly to NIFDI at research@nifdi.org.

The application will be reviewed by members of NIFDI's research staff. Applications will be evaluated on the quality of the research proposal, the extent to which the project will add to the research literature, the probability that the work will be completed in the period specified, the type of research design, with randomized assignment of subjects given the highest priority, and the extent to which sufficient support is available from faculty and involved schools and classrooms.

Your careful assessment of this application will help us to maintain high standards in our fellowship program. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jean Stockard, Ph.D.
Director of Research
National Institute for Direct Instruction

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Eugene, OR 97401
541-485-1973 Telephone
541-683-7543 Fax
research@nifdi.org