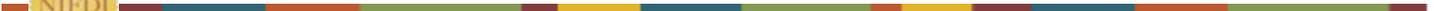


NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DIRECT INSTRUCTION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



APPLICATION





National Institute for Direct Instruction

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General Information

The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) is a non-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.

Through the NIFDI Fellowship Program, NIFDI sponsors small grants to support research on Direct Instruction and promote the development of emerging scholars in the field of education. Two types of awards are 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 is 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 are also 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 may 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 begins. 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 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

Awards are granted on an individual basis and vary in dollar amount. The total amount awarded is determined by the NIFDI Fellowship Committee and is based on a variety of variables, including, but not limited to, the scope of the proposed project, its importance to the field, and funding availability. All awards will be in the form of small 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 consultation with experts in the implementation of DI programs, 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

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Specific Instructions

- I. COVER SHEET: Complete the attached three-page form, which must be signed and dated.
- II. RESEARCH PROPOSAL: A full description of the research, not to exceed 15 pages (excluding the bibliography). Proposals should be typed 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,
- d. a timeline for the project, and
- e. a bibliography of cited material

Proposals should be submitted electronically as a PDF or Word document via email (research@nifdi.org) Address all correspondence to Dr. Jean Stockard, Director of Research, National Institute for Direct Instruction, 805 Lincoln Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

- III. CURRICULUM VITAE OR RESUME including educational and employment history, previous and current grants, a list of all publications, and a description of research interests.
- IV. LETTERS OF REFERENCE evaluating the proposal. A letter outlining elements needed in the letter of reference that can be given to referees is below. Referees should 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.** It may be included with the proposal or submitted separately.
- VI. DOCUMENTATION OF APPROVAL of the proposal from an Institutional Review Board for the protection of Human Subjects.



VII. A BUDGET in line-item format. The budget should include estimates for both in-kind and financial support and justification for the requests, explaining how the requested funds will be allocated toward the program or project. If the request is for purchasing equipment, the equipment needed and its purpose must be explained.





National Institute for Direct Instruction

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 to serve as a referee and to evaluate the enclosed proposal by an applicant for a NIFDI Fellowship.

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 ability to complete the proposed work and 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 email your letter of reference directly to NIFDI at research@nifdi.org.

The application will be reviewed by members of NIFDI's Fellowship Committee. 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 quality of the research design, 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

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