

R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellowship 2017-2018

Friends and colleagues of the late Jim Travers created the R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellowship in 2012 to honour his legacy of critical, conscientious engagement on global issues and Canadian foreign policy by funding a major international reporting project in any medium every year.

Travers worked as the Southam News correspondent in Africa and the Middle East during the 1980s, covering major stories – from Apartheid in South Africa and the Ethiopian famine to the conflict in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war. Returning to Canada, he continued an influential career as General Manager of Southam News, Editor of the Ottawa Citizen, Executive Managing Editor of the Toronto Star, and finally as an award-winning national affairs columnist known for his compassion and playful wit.

At home and abroad, he had a sharp eye for world news and its domestic implications, and was concerned by the lack of in-depth international coverage in the Canadian media. The Fellowship aims to help fill this void and support those hoping to work in Travers' tradition.

Applicants with imaginative, innovative perspectives on a wide range of global issues are encouraged to apply.

Terms

This is an award of up to \$25,000 for one year (applicants need not use the entire sum), administered by Carleton University. It is intended to cover the costs of travel, hired equipment and help (photographers, fixers, etc.), and time spent researching, reporting and producing a significant project. The award will not cover the purchase of equipment.

Successful applicants are expected to focus exclusively on the Fellowship during the period outlined in their proposals and to complete the project by the end of the calendar year in which it's awarded.

Travers Fellows must agree to sign a waiver before heading into the field (waiver will be provided). Fellows must also submit an expense report upon completion of the project.

All publication and/or broadcast of Fellowship work will be accompanied by an appropriate credit citing financial support from the R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellowship. While published work shall remain the property of the fellow, Carleton University reserves the right to use completed projects to promote the Fellowship.

Fellows are required, upon completion of their project, to submit reflections (no more than 500 words) for use on the Fellowship website. Reflections should be based on anything that may have

taken them by surprise during their reporting underwritten by the Award. These may be practical matters, such as logistics, estimating the time necessary on the ground, experience with equipment in the field, etc. But they could also be more conceptual, such as an unexpected insight about something or somebody, coping with refocusing the story on the run, developing new interview approaches in different cultures, maintaining enthusiasm etc.

Eligibility

The Fellowship is open to Canadians and non-Canadians holding a valid Canadian work permit working as freelance or full-time journalists in any medium. Students enrolled in graduate-level journalism or equivalent programs are also encouraged to apply. Team submissions are accepted.

Ethics

Applicants must agree to abide by the [Canadian Association of Journalists' ethics guidelines](#) as well as the [Carleton School of Journalism and Communication Ethics Policy](#).

How to Apply

Applicants must compile a package in English or French that includes the items listed below. Each item should be labelled properly and saved as a separate document. *Late, incomplete or improperly labelled applications will not be considered.*

1. Curriculum Vitae
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 1 CV

2. A tightly-focused story pitch of no more than 1,000 words demonstrating command of and insight into the proposed subject area, and touching upon its relevance to a Canadian audience and potential impact on public policy.

The proposal should address a single topic but the applicant can select that topic from a wide range of global issues. The subject and a significant majority of the content produced must be from outside Canada.

Applicants should clearly indicate as part of their application whether they have applied for any other grants, fellowships or related funding, or whether there are any current or potential institutional partners associated with the proposal. They should also indicate which media they intend to work within.

 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 2 Pitch

3. A one-page reporting plan outlining how the work will be researched, produced and published within the 2018 calendar year

- **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 3 Plan
4. A letter from a credible Canadian media outlet expressing interest in publishing or broadcasting the finished project in English or French.
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 4 Publishing Support
 5. A detailed budget indicating how the award will be used. Applicants proposing to go to dangerous areas are expected to budget for comprehensive health and accident insurance (Reporters Without Borders is one organization that offers such insurance). Those proposing a project in a conflict zone must explain how they plan to address the issue of training for conflict zone reporting.
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 5 Budget
 6. For journalists who will need to negotiate some leave without pay from their employer to complete the project, no more than one-third of the proposed budget may be used to cover regular salary foregone during the Fellowship period. Applicants **may** be asked to provide proof of lost income in the form of a letter from a supervisor. Journalists employed by a media organization are encouraged to seek some support from their organization so that as much of the Fellowship money as possible may be devoted to travel and other expenses directly related to the mandate of the Fellowship.
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 6 Employer Support
 7. Up to five clips or writing samples. Radio, television, and digital media applicants may submit clips in their respective medium.
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** Last name, First name – 7 Clip1-SLUG / Last name, First name – 7 Clip2-SLUG / Last name, First name – 7 Clip3-SLUG *AND SO ON – DO NOT SEND MORE THAN FIVE
 8. Letters of reference: Applicants should arrange for up to three professional letters of reference from a supervising editor familiar with their work. Students must arrange for a letter of reference from a faculty member speaking to their capacity and preparedness to successfully undertake the project.

DO NOT ARRANGE FOR MORE THAN THREE.

Each referee should format the reference letter as a Word document or PDF and send as an email attachment directly to traversfellowship@carleton.ca

Please ask your referees to send their material by the Application Deadline, and to follow the required labelling protocol:

 - **REQUIRED LETTER LABEL:** Letter for ApplicantFirstName ApplicantLastName from RefereeFirstName RefereeLastName [e.g. Letter for Jane Smith from Jill Jones]
 - **REQUIRED EMAIL SUBJECT LINE:** Travers - Letter for ApplicantFirstName ApplicantLastName [e.g. Travers – Letter for Jane Smith]

Submission of Application Package

1. Email items 1-7 to: traversfellowship@carleton.ca
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** the subject line of the email should be labelled as follows:
Last name, First name – TRAVERS 2018 application
2. Larger files can be uploaded to Dropbox – do not use Google Docs
 - **REQUIRED LABEL:** the Dropbox folder should be labelled as follows: Last name, First name – TRAVERS 2018 application

Application Deadline

Monday October 23, 2017 by **12 p.m. (noon) EDT**

Late applications will not be considered.

The Fellowship award will be announced sometime in December 2017/early January 2018. All applicants will be notified of the status of their submissions once final decisions are made, so please do not feel you need to contact us to ask about your status.

Selection

Fellows will be chosen by an award committee composed of faculty members from Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication, the Travers family and a senior journalist.

Committee members will give preference to:

- Applicants with an impressive record of achievement commensurate with the stage of their career, as demonstrated by published or broadcast work of distinction or evidence of significant potential to excel;
- Applicants demonstrating a capacity for insightful, independent analysis and creative storytelling;
- Proposals that show a strong consideration for social, political or economic justice and that have implications for Canadian public policy;
- Proposals that address topics relevant to a Canadian audience;
- Proposals with a concrete strategy for dissemination and publication or broadcast, designed to generate interest and discussion of the topic, including details of how you plan to engage audiences online and through social media, both prior to and after publication. Your digital strategy should include visual and/or audio components (for instance photos, videos, podcasts, interactive elements, etc.) that would actively involve audiences and ensure your work remains available online into the future.

