



# Baltic-American Freedom Foundation

## Research Scholar Program

Baltic-American Freedom Foundation provides fellowships for professors and academic researchers to conduct independent or collaborative research projects in the U.S. for up to 12 months.

**The Research Scholar Program** fosters the exchange of ideas between the Baltic states and the U.S. and stimulates international collaboration and research efforts. It promotes mutual enrichment, further strengthening ties between the nations and providing invaluable career and personal development opportunities for participants to leverage in their leadership roles upon return to their home countries and institutions.

### Who can participate?

Senior academic and research professionals are encouraged to apply. Candidates should hold a Ph.D. degree, or have significant relevant professional experience. Applicants must design and develop their own projects. They also must be the citizens of the Baltic states, not have immediate family members that are BAFF employees, BAFF Advisory Board, or Board of Directors members and agree to return to your home country for a minimum of two years immediately post-scholarship.



The maximum Research Scholar fellowship award is \$60,000. Awards are determined based on established guidelines and will depend on the length, location, and nature of the individual project.

**Awards are intended to cover:**

- Participant round-trip airfare
- Emergency health insurance for the entire stay in the U.S.
- J-1 visa sponsorship

**Monthly stipend to cover:**

- Accommodation
- Personal expenses
- Local transportation
- Family allowance, if applicable
- Approved U.S. conference attendance

**Additional Benefits:**

- 24/7 emergency support
- Personalized support
- No fees whatsoever

**Awards DO NOT cover:**

- Family round-trip airfare
- Significant dependent expenses
- Leisure travel in the U.S.
- Personal shopping or gifts
- Hardware or equipment purchases (computers, laptops, printers etc.)
- Additional expenses that pertain to lifestyle preferences

**Family Allowance**

BAFF provides J-2 visa sponsorship and a family allowance designed to support up to three accompanying family members. BAFF aims to remain true to its primary mission of providing financial grants to BAFF Research Scholars to gain valuable professional experience in the U.S. BAFF believes that a larger part of the funding granted to the BAFF Research Scholar should go to support the project proposal. The Family Allowance may be limited if the overall award exceeds \$60,000.

The decision to bring dependents is a personal one that should be carefully evaluated by applicants based on their financial circumstances and other factors. Applicants planning to bring their spouse and/or dependents with them should have sufficient personal savings to cover family-related expenses not covered by BAFF – for example, airfare and mandatory health insurance.

For J-2 Visa eligibility, a dependent is defined as any legally married spouse and minor unmarried children under the age of 21. Dependents must accompany the applicant for a minimum of three months to receive a family allowance.

More information about the program: <https://balticamericanfreedomfoundation.org/programs-awards-research/>

### **About Baltic-American Freedom Foundation**

Continuing a longstanding American commitment to the Baltic region, the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation (BAFF) mission is to deepen the ties between and among Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the United States through programs of education and exchange centering on economic growth and democratic values.

**More information:** <https://balticamericanfreedomfoundation.org/>