

The Walter J. Jensen Fellowship

About the Fellowship

The Walter J. Jensen Fellowship was established in 2001 by Professor Walter J. Jensen (ΦBK, UCLA) for the study of French Language, Literature, and Culture. The primary purpose of the Fellowship is to enrich, promote and improve education in the standard French language in the United States, through an award to educators and researchers to be used for education and study of French language, literature and culture.

Fellowship Details

- The Fellowship is awarded for at least six continuous months of study in France and carries a stipend (adjusted annually for inflation) of \$16,865 (for the 2019 award year). It is typically paid in two installments; the first is paid when travel to France is planned/booked, and the second when a final report is submitted to Phi Beta Kappa.
- The Fellowship also includes funding for a single round-trip, economy-class ticket for the recipient to travel to France.
- The Fellow is required to submit reports every two months, in English and French, describing progress made learning about French language, literature, and culture. The Fellowship will conclude with the submission of a final report suitable for scholarly publication in a venue such as *The French Review*, published by the American Association for Teachers of French.
- The proposed course of study may be independent research or part of an accredited academic program. (The fellowship's emphasis on "Standard French" excludes a focus on Creole, Quebecois, and other dialects.)
- Preference is given to ΦBK members and to educators teaching at the secondary level or above.
- Applicants are not required to be members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Eligibility Requirements

The fellowship is intended for applicants who:

- Demonstrate convincingly that an active use of the French language plays or will play a significant role in their current or future career;
- Have a bachelor's degree in French language and literature from an accredited four-year institution;
- Have achieved a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- Demonstrate superior competence in French, per the standards established by the American Association of Teachers of French; and
- Are U.S. Citizens

Application Process

Completed applications should be sent electronically to [Jen Horneman](#), Awards Coordinator at the Phi Beta Kappa National Office and must include:

- The application form
- A work proposal in both English and French
- Transcripts from all institutions*
- Three letters of recommendation*

*Letters and transcripts may be sent electronically, directly to ΦBK from the letter writer and/or institution.

Note for Selection Panel

Five selection panel members make up the Jensen Selection Panel; all members will have a background in the study and teaching of French.

The Jensen Selection Panel is tasked with selecting one fellowship winner each year. In selecting the winner, the panel is encouraged to consider candidates who submit a project that is well prepared and duly researched. It should be a significant, engaging and relevant topic with a clear methodology and defined goals. The project should contribute to the applicant's planned career while establishing a connection with an active use of the French language. It should demonstrate a means of providing enrichment, promotion and/or improvement of education in the standard French language in the United States. The candidate should reflect the standards of the Phi Beta Kappa Society through a record of academic excellence, as well as breadth and depth of study in liberal arts and sciences, collegiality, and integrity.

The ΦBK Awards Coordinator will facilitate the prize process and send all selection panel members the completed application materials for review, typically about one month after the January 15th application deadline has passed. All selection panel members are expected to inform ΦBK of any conflict of interest prior to submission of evaluation materials. Selection panel members are asked to fill out an evaluation form and rank order the contenders. If necessary, ΦBK will arrange for a conference call to finalize the selection.

Representatives from ΦBK will contact and make fellowship arrangements with the winners.