

The ROYCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Selection Process

PROCESS OVERVIEW

All proposals for the 2008 application cycle must be submitted no later than noon on February 18, 2008. Applications will be read in two distinct rounds, determining a pool of finalists for the fellowship. Twenty of these finalists will be selected as Fellows based on an final interview with the Director of the program.

ROUND ONE

- 1 A group of Brown faculty and staff evaluate all applications. Each application will be considered by at least four readers.
- 2 Applications are reviewed based on the proposal's overall consistency with the selection criteria (See the '*Criteria for Selection*' below).
- 3 Based on the scored evaluations of each application, the top fifty candidates for the program are identified.

ROUND TWO

- 1 Each application is evaluated by four new readers.
- 2 Review of applications in this round is weighted to the substance and conceptual quality of the proposal, and the potential contribution applicant will make to the Society of Royce Fellows.
- 3 Twenty to twenty-five finalists for the fellowship are identified.

ROUND THREE (If necessary)

- 1 Director meets individually with each of the finalists, addressing questions raised by the selection committee concerning a given application.
- 2 After meeting with the finalists and considering the previous evaluations of each applicant, the selection committee selects the twenty to twenty 2007 Royce Fellows.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Below are the general criteria and specific questions within each that the selection committee considers when evaluating the proposals submitted to the Royce Fellowship Program.

SUBSTANCE AND CONCEPTUAL QUALITY OF THE PROPOSAL:

1 Intellectual Preparedness:

- a Does the applicant address how the project proposed will expand on or react to the existing work (intellectual, practical) in the field of interest?
- b Is the applicant familiar enough with the general topic to understand the possibilities for and implications of the project proposed?

2 Approach and Balance:

- a Will the Fellowship be an opportunity for the applicant to genuinely confront the challenges, dilemmas and questions implicit in her or his project, or is the proposal interested only in demonstrating already arrived at conclusions?
- b Does the applicant present an ambitious course of study or action while at the same time being realistic about the predicted or expected impact/outcomes?

3 Awareness and Perspective:

- a How familiar is the applicant with the history and contemporary dynamics of a given environment?
- b How conscious is the applicant of the challenges and tensions she or he might face as well as those she or he might pose while undertaking the project?
- c How sensitive is the applicant to the ramifications the project might have for those affiliated or involved?

4 Written Quality:

- a Does the application fall within the prescribed page and formatting limits?
- b Is the proposal's language accessible to readers not necessarily acquainted with the content, theory,

or logic of the proposed project?

RELEVANCE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO THE APPLICANT'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT BROWN:

1 Has the applicant made the connections necessary to ensure the feasibility of a given proposal?
(See '*Degree of Predictability...*' below)

2 Does the applicant demonstrate how the proposed project fits within the continuum of her or his formal education?

DEGREE OF PREDICTABILITY THAT THE PROSPECTIVE FELLOW HAS THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THE STATED GOALS:

1 Are the action plan and timeline realistic given the expectations and anticipated outcomes set forth in the proposal? Can the project be reasonably accomplished?

2 Are the resources necessary to complete the proposed project available? Have they been located, contacted, and confirmed?

3 Have the necessary relationships been developed to ensure both access and support throughout the project's duration?

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION THE APPLICANT WILL MAKE TO THE SOCIETY OF ROYCE FELLOWS:

1 Will the project represent a new opportunity for the applicant to engage with other students, faculty, and alumni from a variety of disciplines and perspectives?

2 Will the applicant risk presenting views on topics outside her or his area of expertise in front of peers and mentors alike? Will the applicant appreciate risks taken by others, considering and respecting perspectives distinct from her or his own?

3 Does the applicant demonstrate genuine curiosity and interest in broad and diverse subjects or just in those that fall within her or his area of comfort and expertise?

4 How committed is the applicant to exploring the significance of individual scholarship and engagement for a broader public?

DEMONSTRATION OF PAST EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND INITIATIVE:

1 Has the applicant sought other resources and opportunities to further her or his interests and passions in this field?

2 Has the applicant exhibited previous commitment and innovation towards other interests and passions?

LETTER OF SUPPORT:

1 Does the letter of support reflect clearly the faculty or staff member's role in the development of the proposal (concept, plan of action, expectations)?

2 Even if the project proposed is beyond the faculty or staff member's purview, is she or he willing to work with and support the applicant over the course of the Fellowship?

3 Does the sponsor express confidence in the project itself (the probability that it will be carried forward) or only in the personal attributes of the applicant?

4 Is the sponsor—especially those who cannot comment on the merits of the project itself—able to highlight particular qualities in the applicant that would speak to the feasibility of the work proposed?

5 Is the sponsor confident that the applicant has done the preliminary work necessary to be both challenged by and supported throughout the proposed project?