



Sylff

The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund

at the
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
for Tomorrow's Intellectual Leaders

Scholarships for Graduate Studies in SY 2019-2020

Application Period: April 22-30, 2019

Deadline for submission of complete application requirements: April 30, 2019

The **Sylff Program for Tomorrow's Intellectual Leaders** envisions to produce responsible citizens who can deal with social issues with a critical and constructive sense, formulate solutions for local and regional problems, and participate effectively in the country's efforts to engage the global community.

The Sylff program was designed for the best and brightest students with strong leadership potential. It supports outstanding, highly qualified graduate students with full one-year scholarships for Master's, Master of Laws, PhD, or Juris Doctor degrees. Those who are in the final stages of their theses or dissertations, and whose research is oriented towards the social sciences and/or public policy, may apply.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must be a current:
 - Loyola Schools graduate student who is within the prescribed residency period has successfully defended his/her thesis/dissertation proposal; or
 - an Ateneo Law School junior enrolled in the Juris Doctor (JD) program whose thesis/dissertation proposal has been approved by the Thesis Committee.
2. Academic Excellence in master's/doctorate/JD study with a minimum grade point average of 85 or B+
3. Leadership experience or involvement in community service
4. Filipino citizenship
5. Thesis/dissertation should focus on any of the Sylff themes. Research should be oriented towards the social sciences and/or public policy.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. *Application for a SYLFF Fellowship*
2. For MA/MS/JD Applicants: photocopy of transcript of records for current program of study and undergraduate degree
3. For PhD applicants: photocopy of transcript of records for undergraduate degree, MA/MS degree, and current PhD study
4. Curriculum vitae
5. Certification of the approval of the thesis/dissertation proposal signed by the adviser and Department Chair
6. A 300-word Abstract of approved thesis/dissertation
7. One-page essay about the applicant's leadership potential, chosen Sylff theme, and concrete plans after graduate studies

Complete requirements must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs (for LS students) or the Office of the Dean, Ateneo Law School (for ALS students) on or before April 30, 2019.

The grant is awarded on an annual basis and is released in the Philippine Peso equivalent of USD9,000, based on an exchange rate determined by the University Treasurer at the time of approval of the application. It is inclusive of tuition and fees, book allowance, and a monthly living allowance for 10-12 months (depending on the applicant's academic advisement).

Sylff Application Form Download the form from the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs webpage: <http://ateneo.edu/ls/graduate/financial-aid-graduate-students>

Sylff Themes The SYLFF Steering Committee will select from applicants whose master's theses/final research projects or doctoral dissertations are oriented towards the social sciences and/or public policy, and are focused on any of the following themes:

THEME 1 Strengthening Identities

In the context of globalization, how do Filipinos—as individuals, communities, or a nation—represent themselves or are represented? “Filipino identity” is one continually shaped and expressed in conjunction with, in opposition to, and in negotiation with other notions, understandings, and formations of the self.

Of interest here are:

- the intricacies of culture and history that shape subjectivities and their expressions in various practices and art
- the archives of knowledge that are created by discourses and that in turn underpin personal and social action
- the meanings people create and attach to objects, places, people and events
- the lived performances of people as they enact “themselves” according to social categories (gender, ethnicity, and class, for example) and to their location in a historical period, the global space, the cultural context, or an environmental niche
- the protection and promotion of cultural heritage and intellectual property especially those of indigenous peoples.

THEME 2 Transforming Social Institutions

The comprehension of the social world, specifically of the structures of power in Philippine society, involves the the interrogation or critique of those structures in terms of contesting paradigms, and the formulation of new discourses

that will guide the transformation of social and legal institutions—the family, state, religion, economy, mass media, art, education, health, the judiciary, etc.

Of much concern as objects of interrogation are:

- social and individual practices and processes that sustain and legitimize subordination, oppression, and violence
- socio-cultural mechanisms that dislocate families, displace cultural or linguistic communities, deprive urban and rural settlers, discriminate against powerless groups, and degrade both the environment and its surrounding natural resources
- inequities in health and education systems
- challenges to the rule of law including weaponization of the law, unequal application, and addressing antiquated legislation.

Out of this interrogation should arise new discourses and practices for restructuring or creating social institutions—blueprints for social stability, fresh strategies for socioeconomic development, recommendations for generating and recognizing alternative ideologies, and guidelines for ensuring environmental sustainability and for monitoring and restoring the ecosystem.

THEME 3 Engaging Global Communities

If the restructuring of social institutions focuses on the transformation of social arrangements within Philippine society, the task of imagining world communities stresses the need for the Philippines to be engaged as an active participant in emerging and shifting international orders.

Of importance here are:

- the studies between global economic forces and local competitiveness
- the challenges to democratization and its diverse expressions in both the nation and its local communities
- the transnational health threats, environmental deficits, intellectual properties, and forms of popular culture and their interaction with local traditions
- regional and international security
- the creation of international safety nets against economic dislocation and the fragmentation of personal and social life
- the harmonization of cross border overlaps in legislation and the exercise of sovereign jurisdiction
- the social and legal dimensions of migration both for the receiving and sending states
- the interrogation of international knowledge regimes or communities that dictate the flow of and access to information

The construction of identities and the imagination of world communities begin with a critique of the social world. From this interrogation of society shall emerge paradigms and practices that will reduce the assault of power and inequality engendered by social institutions and that will foster the reconstruction of self and society in more democratic and equitable ways. The ability of a nation like the Philippines to assume an active life in the world community depends on the nation's ability to redefine itself and to harness global resources to its benefit. The reconstruction of itself as a nation can be accomplished through a reconstruction of culture, power, structure and personality in a world made one by globalization and made many by localized resistances. This reconstruction will also demand continuous interrogation and restructuring as human communities and personal lives again become captives of new forms of rationality and suffocating power.

About The Nippon Foundation

www.nippon-foundation.or.jp

Founded in 1962, The Nippon Foundation is one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world. Its fundamental aim is the realization of a peaceful and prosperous global society. For the sake of humankind and the world in general, the Foundation brings together the world's wisdom to transform society. The Nippon Foundation is the endowment donor of the Sylff Program (www.sylff.org). Through the Foundation's Overseas Grants Division, SYLFF endowments have been awarded to 69 universities and consortia in 44 countries.

About The Tokyo Foundation

www.tokyofoundation.org

The Tokyo Foundation administers the Sylff Program. The Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit think tank that presents concrete policy proposals based on a lucid analysis of issues combined with a solid grasp of everyday life and the reality on the ground. It also cultivates socially engaged future leaders with a broad perspective and deep insight, both in Japan and overseas. Through a combination of policy research and human resources development, The Tokyo Foundation hopes to change society for the better.