



Discern Your Interests and Goals

One of the most important ways to prepare to apply for national fellowships is to develop self-awareness of your interests and goals. Below you'll find some questions that you can ask yourself to help you in your discernment process. Thinking through these types of questions will help you not only to find fellowships that fit your needs but also to determine what opportunities you should pursue in order to accomplish your goals.

- What are your academic interests or personal passions?
- Why are these things important to you?
- Why should people in your community, nation, or global society care about these things?
- What are your goals for the future?
- Do you want to attend graduate school? If so, what do you want to study and where?
- Do you want to learn a foreign language? If so, which language(s)?
- Do you want to undertake a research project? If so, what would be your research question? What methods would you use to answer it?
- Do you want to serve a particular community? Which community would you serve, and in what way would you serve them?