

Davidson Fellows

2009

Application Booklet

Outside the Box



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Introduction – Outside the Box

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Davidson Fellows Scholarship in the Outside the Box category.

Our purpose in offering the Davidson Fellows Scholarship is to recognize outstanding achievements of young people who can demonstrate the development of their talents with a significant piece of work. We seek to recognize and award the truly *extraordinary* in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box. Each submission must be a piece of original work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is designed to recognize prodigious achievement and is not a competition. Each submission is evaluated on its scope and quality, level of significance and the applicant's depth of knowledge and understanding of the work and the related domain area. Information about past Davidson Fellows is available at www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows.

Young people selected as Davidson Fellows receive a \$10,000, \$25,000 or \$50,000 scholarship to further the development of their education through attendance at an accredited academic institution.

In addition, Davidson Fellows are encouraged to make a moral commitment to support others to develop their talents. Davidson Fellows will have an opportunity to serve as role models and mentors to other profoundly intelligent young people.

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to recognize, nurture, and support profoundly intelligent young people and to provide opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference.

If at any time during the application process you have questions, please contact Davidson Fellows Program Manager, Tacie Moessner, at davidsonfellows@davidsongifted.org/fellows or 775-852-3483 ext. 423.

Warmest Regards,



Julie Dudley
Director, Davidson Fellows Program
Davidson Institute for Talent Development

Eligibility

The Outside the Box project must be university graduate level work, or comparable, and completed with the supervision of an expert or experts.

If you are doing graduate level work and your project fits into one of the other categories, please apply in that category.

To be eligible for the Davidson Fellows Scholarship in Outside the Box, each applicant must:

- Have completed a prodigious work in the Outside the Box category.
- Be a U.S. citizen residing in the United States, or a Permanent Resident of the United States residing in the United States.
- **Be under the age of 18 on October 1, 2009.** Individuals born on or before October 1, 1991 are not eligible. There is no minimum age for eligibility.
- Be able to demonstrate that the work is the applicant's own creation. Guidance from teachers and mentors is acceptable, as long as the work is the applicant's.
- Be available to attend, with a parent/guardian, the awards reception and other recognition events to be held in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 30 and October 1, 2009.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program does not currently recognize projects in areas such as athletics, community service, social service, dance and performance art, visual art and/or fine arts. These projects are not considered Outside the Box.

Deadlines

There are **two** deadlines in the 2009 Davidson Fellows Outside the Box application process:

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Deadline: Outside the Box Screening Form - REQUIRED

- Each applicant must complete a Screening Form and return it, via fax or mail, to the Davidson Institute. Due to the nature of this particular category, the Davidson Institute requires a Screening Form to ensure the project meets the base requirement of university graduate level work or comparable work completed with the supervision of an expert or experts. The Davidson Institute will notify applicants by January 30, 2009 if your project qualifies to be submitted as part of your application.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Deadline: Completed Outside the Box Application

Deadline: Three Nominator Forms

The Davidson Institute will NOT immediately confirm receipt of your submission. It is recommended that you use a delivery company that will allow you to track your submission package and confirm its delivery. All applications received after 5 p.m. on March 4, 2009 will be immediately disqualified.

- **Your completed Fellows Application must be mailed or shipped to the Institute so that it arrives on or before 5 p.m. PST Wednesday, March 4, 2009.** The completed application packet includes THREE copies of the following elements: an official Davidson Fellows Application, all required elements as specified in the application relating to the prodigious work, Attachments 1 through 4, and the required 15-minute DVD. ***The Institute will not be able to immediately confirm receipt of applications due to the volume of incoming packages. All confirmations will be sent via email within three to five business days.***
- **All Nominating Forms must be received via fax or mail on or before 5 p.m. PST Wednesday, March 4, 2009.** Three Nominating Forms are required: one from a mentor or supervising scientist; one from a teacher, tutor or school administrator; and one from a professional in the field related to the work. All nominators must be familiar with the work being submitted. Family members may not serve as nominators. All Nominating Forms must be submitted directly to the Davidson Institute by the nominator. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the Nominating Forms arrive before the deadline of 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, on March 4, 2009. ***The Institute will not be able to immediately confirm receipt of nominating forms due to the volume of incoming forms. All confirmations will be sent via email within three to five business days.***

There will be no deadline extensions.

How to Apply

Step One:

Carefully review the Davidson Fellows website, www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows including the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section**.

Step Two:

Download the following application components from the Outside the Box application page of the Davidson Fellows website:

- Davidson Fellows 2009 Outside the Box Application Booklet
- Davidson Fellows Outside the Box Application
- Davidson Fellows Outside the Box Screening Form
- Davidson Fellows Nominating Form (one for each of the three required nominators)

Step Three:

Complete and submit the mandatory Davidson Fellows Outside the Box **Screening Form** by **January 14, 2009**. Confirmation notices, regarding project qualification for full application submission, will be sent via email by January 30, 2009 to the email address provided by the applicant on this form – please write legibly!

Step Four:

Once you receive confirmation that your project is eligible, complete the top section of three Davidson Fellows Nominating Forms and distribute to the appropriate individuals (three nominators are required). Confirm with each nominator that they have submitted their Nominating Form via fax or mail to the Institute. ***Applications with missing Nominating Forms will be disqualified.***

Step Five:

Submit all application components to the Davidson Institute for Talent Development no later than 5 p.m. PST on March 4, 2009. **Please note that March 4, 2009 is the “received by” date, not a “postmarked by” date. All applications received after 5 p.m. on March 4, 2009 will be disqualified.**

The completed application packet includes **THREE** copies of the following elements: an official Davidson Fellows Application, all required elements as specified in the application relating to the prodigious work, Attachments 1 through 4, and the required 15-minute DVD.

Labeling and shipping of application components:

- Please do not put application materials in binders or plastic binder sleeves. This creates much extra work for staff and these materials will be discarded.
- Please label all CDs and/or DVDs with your last name and first initial, category and the title of your submission. CD/DVDs must be labeled with permanent marker only, do not affix adhesive labels to the disk itself.
- All application materials must be sent in ONE package, including the completed application, and all components and attachments. Do not send any of these items separately.

The Davidson Institute strongly recommends that you keep a copy of your application, the attachments and the prodigious work required elements since all submissions become the property of the Davidson Institute and **no materials will be returned to the applicant**. Any intellectual property in the application materials will remain the property of the applicant.

The Davidson Institute will not be able to immediately confirm receipt of applications due to the volume of incoming packages. All confirmations will be sent via email within three to five business days. Therefore, it is recommended that you use a delivery company that will allow you to track your submission and confirm its delivery.

All applicants will be notified of results by mail on or before July 14, 2009.

To download all application components, please visit www.DavidsonGifted.org/Fellows.

Rules and Regulations

Applicants must adhere to the following:

- Each applicant may submit only one application.
- Group or team projects are not eligible. The work must be that of a single individual.
- Each submission must include the official Davidson Fellows application plus all of its attachments and prodigious work required elements as specified by the Outside the Box category as well as three nominating forms. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- Applications involving human subjects, live vertebrates or live invertebrates are not eligible. However, the Davidson Fellows Program will consider certain tissue related projects if, and only if, the applicant can demonstrate:
 1. the materials were collected for other purposes; AND
 2. the student is collaborating with a qualified lead scientist/expert in the field; AND
 3. the lead mentor/expert provides to the Institute documented approval from a recognized Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Scientific Review Committee (SRC).Documentation must be submitted with the mandatory Screening Form and will be carefully reviewed by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, who, at its sole discretion, will subsequently determine eligibility. The Davidson Institute of Talent Development may, in its sole discretion, also require that other conditions be met before tissue related projects will be further considered.

Conditions of Scholarship

Each scholarship may be used only for qualified tuition and related expenses, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code §117(b) and related regulations.

The Institute shall determine the time and conditions of payment of scholarships at its sole discretion. The Davidson Institute may specify the documentation required to assure that the recipient is following an appropriate course of study.

If the recipient withdraws from school, or the recipient's progress is unsatisfactory and the recipient makes no alternate arrangements to pursue courses at the same or another educational institution, then, at its sole discretion, the Davidson Institute may terminate the scholarship.

Disqualifications

The Davidson Institute and/or the Judges may decide to disqualify an application if it or they are of the opinion that there has been no timely and proper submission of the application, there is a lack of sufficient merit, and/or if there is a violation of any portion of the rules or regulations.

Fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or project development. Plagiarism, use or presentation of another person's work as one's own, forgery of signatures and fabrication or falsification of data or portfolio materials will not be tolerated. Fraudulent projects will be disqualified.

If an application contains materials that appear to violate any of the rules and regulations, the Davidson Institute and/or the Judges may, at its or their discretion, disqualify the application in its entirety and/or withdraw an award that has not been previously paid out to the applicant.

Disqualification may also occur if an application that is submitted on time contains any omissions or errors. However, the Davidson Institute and/or the Judges may, at its or their sole discretion, contact the applicant pointing out the violation and give the submitting applicant a designated period of time to complete or correct such application.

Employees, trustees (and their immediate family members) of the Davidson Institute and the Judges (and their immediate family members) are not eligible to apply for or receive any Davidson Fellows Scholarship.

Judging Criteria

The following criteria, weighted as indicated below, will be used for the selection of Davidson Fellows:

50 Points	30 Points	20 Points
<i>The quality and scope of the entry</i>	<i>The level of significance of the work</i>	<i>The applicant's depth of knowledge and understanding of the work and the related domain area.</i>

The selection of Davidson Fellows is strictly based upon the above criteria.

The Davidson Institute does not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, ethnicity or physical disability. All selection decisions are final.

The Selection

Each submission is examined for completeness and accuracy. Qualified entries are then evaluated by an independent team of judges comprised of professionals in project-related domain areas. The team of judges may, at their sole discretion, consult with additional experts to assist in evaluating the merits of each submission.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is not a competition; we seek to recognize and award the **extraordinary**. Judges will thoroughly evaluate each application, considering its scope and quality, level of significance and the applicant's depth of knowledge and understanding of the work and the related domain area.

The independent team of judges will identify which applicants will be named Davidson Fellows and decide whether they will receive a \$10,000, \$25,000 or \$50,000 scholarship. All applicants will be notified of the judges' decisions on or before July 14, 2009.

Individuals named as Davidson Fellows will be honored at an awards reception to be held in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 30 and October 1, 2009.