

FAQ for Odyssey Fellows program applicants 2020-21

Q: Is this a filmmaking internship?

A: No. For 2020-21, the Odyssey Fellowship is about helping emerging faith leaders (that's you!) do TWO things: be more fluent in using film in ministry, and convening conversations on difficult civic issues across lines of difference. It's not about making films — though if that's your jam, we're excited to support media makers too!

Q: At what field/contextual site does an Odyssey Fellowship “place” me?

A: An Odyssey Fellowship is a “booster pack” for the field placement you're lining up for 2020-21. Odyssey does NOT place you at a field/contextual education site. Instead, we seek to enhance the experience of the work you will do there, for both you and the community where you will serve. We offer an additional \$4,000 stipend on top of the stipend you'll already receive, plus other support.

Q: Am I a fit for an Odyssey Fellowship? Is my site or my project idea a fit?

A: We strongly suggest you take advantage of the opportunity to PRE-SUBMIT a draft of your idea to Dr. Kime (katie@odyssey-impact.org) before March 15th! Drafts received before this date will receive feedback before the final application deadline of Apr. 1st!

Q: How much extra work/time commitment is the Odyssey Fellowship?

A: The Odyssey Fellowship is not intended to require much extra time commitment in addition to what you'll already be doing at your contextual/field education site. Instead, Odyssey seeks to offer valuable support and training to students working at sites that would benefit from increased fluency in engaging media, and in convening conversations on difficult civic issues across lines of difference. The required 3-day cohort training in August in Denver, and the “showcase” final event in Atlanta in spring 2021 will be the major time commitments beyond the work of your site.

Q: Is this meant for people serving churches, or NOT serving churches?

A: Both. Odyssey is excited to receive applications from a wide range of applicants, serving in faith-based or secular communities.

Q: What do you mean about “difficult civic issues”: which issues? And which “lines of difference”?

A: Civic issues can be quite broadly defined -- any topic of public import for contemporary American life that is experienced, in a particular context, as divisive. For example, fracking

might be a hotly divisive topic for a particular town/house of worship in Alaska, but in another context, it's private prisons, or race relations more generally. Similarly, a "line of difference" is highly contextual: political identity, race, sexual/gender identity, etc. The "lines of difference" can be within the community you service, or between your community and another community (for instance, your congregation and another congregation which span a "line of difference").

Q: Are Odyssey Fellows required to only show documentary films from Odyssey's catalog?

A: Certainly not! Odyssey will choose candidates proposing projects at sites which would clearly benefit from the opportunities afforded by a screening of one of Odyssey's films. However, the Odyssey Fellows program is about the formation of media-fluent faith leaders engaging tough civic topics. We're excited to help Fellows heal communities, lead well, and affect change. We encourage the use of films that fit the context and the need, whether they be from Odyssey or some other source.

Q: On my seminary campus, I already know a classmate of mine is applying, and s/he is PERFECT for the Odyssey Fellowship. Should I even bother applying?

A: Absolutely yes! On campuses where only 1 Odyssey Fellowship is offered, it is *possible* we might be able to award more Fellowships, depending on the fit and the quality of the applications!

Q: Where is the website where I complete my application?

A: Instead of a website application, applicants assemble the required components per the seminary announcement. Please allow enough time to adequately think through your potential project, and discuss with the person who will supervise you at your site next year! The deadline is April 1st.