# Frequently Asked Questions

## *Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellowship*

**Q:**   **What are the eligibility requirements?**

**A:**   To qualify for the Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, eligible applicants must:
- Be an enrolled member of a US Federally-Recognized tribe; and,
- Be attending a nonprofit institution; and,
- Be conducting research during the summer months that is for a graduate degree; and,
- Demonstrate a competitive grade point average.

   *Please note that upon Finalist selection, IEI will verify both Tribal Enrollment as well as institutional enrollment on behalf of the applicant.*

**Q:**   **What are the benefits of being a Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellow?**

**A:**   During the summer in which students are a Cobell Fellow, they receive $5,000 in two disbursements to help with research being conducted in the summer months. Fellows receive guidance and support from the Indigenous Education, Inc. (IEI) Fellowship Team during the summer in which they are an active Fellow, as well as continued support thereafter. The Cobell Fellow cohort is growing into a strong group of Native researchers with whom Fellows have the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and engage. Fellows also may have the opportunity and support from IEI to present research at pertinent conferences.

**Q:**   **How do I apply?**

**A:**   The Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellowship applications are entirely online. The application for the 2026 Summer can be accessed at https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/access_oasis. Note that this platform is different from previous years and from all Cobell/AISES opportunities - applicants will need to begin an entirely new application at the above link.

**Q:**   **What does the application entail?**

**A:**   To apply, applicants must complete the application profile, eligibility, and fellowship application at the link above. In order to fully complete the Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellowship application you will need to be prepared to provide the following documents:
- A PDF copy of your **Official Transcript**, (note: NOT a copy of your unofficial transcript); and,
- Forecasted research project budget and timeline for the Summer in which research will be conducted; and,
- As part of the application, you will be asked to provide the contact information for the faculty member who will be advising your research project. The application system will then generate an

email to them asking them to upload a letter of support for your research project. Please make sure your research supervisor is aware of your application ahead of time so they may anticipate our request for their letter; and,

- A document describing the research project for which the applicant is requesting support; and,
- A current CV/Academic Resume; and,
- A short answer essay to be completed in the application.

**Q:** **Are applicants allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their application responses?**

**A:** We know there are many AI tools available to students (like ChatGPT). While we believe that artificial intelligence (AI) tools help brainstorm ideas, outline, or edit, the final responses must be the applicant's own work. While the Cobell Scholarship does not prohibit the use of AI technologies for the purpose of revision and proofreading, applicants should use their own thoughts for idea generation and response writing.

We expect that an applicant will personally write all responses submitted for review in the application. The responses that reviewers love to read, and that are most helpful in making a decision tell them something new and unique about the applicant and (most importantly) are in the applicant's authentic voice. The reviewers should hear the applicant's voice and perspective when reading all the application materials. The quality of the writing is not as important as the personalized message or story that is being shared. We read applications to get a better understanding of an applicant and to hear an authentic voice.

You will tell your own story better than AI can.

**Q:** **How many Fellows are selected each summer?**

**A:** Generally, there are five (5) Cobell Fellows awarded each summer. However, this is a highly competitive Fellowship with about 100 applicants each year, so attention to detail and quality are critical.

**Q:** **How are Finalists selected?**

**A:** All eligible applications are reviewed by Indigenous external reviewers with extensive experience working with Native college students. Once they complete their reviews, recommendations are sent to IEI and the Cobell Fellowship Team for review and final selection.

**Q:** **How will Finalists be notified?**

**A:** All finalists will be notified via email.

**Q:**     **May Fellowship applicants apply for other opportunities? (i.e. The Cobell Scholarship, AISES, etc)?**

**A:**     Yes! Please apply to as many opportunities for which you may be eligible. IEI encourages applying to all opportunities for which you may qualify.