

## Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation

### **Structural Engineering Research Fellowship** *2019 Program Participation Guidelines*

#### **1. Goal of the Fellowship**

The purpose of the fellowship is to research structures that humanize density in our cities. In addition to traveling and documenting existing structures that contribute to humanizing density, submissions should include proposals for research and concepts for new structural systems and/or components of structures inspired by this. The use of new materials and/or construction methods are encouraged. Proposals for entries should focus on the impact of structures that enhance the quality of life, creatively use materials, include high-performance systems, are environmentally responsible, and carefully integrate with architecture. One or more cities may be considered for the initial research and students are encouraged to work with an advisor also interested in this subject.

The \$20,000 Fellowship is awarded annually to a student who is graduating with a bachelor's degree, master's degree or Ph.D. in structural engineering. By enabling the Fellow to research and experience buildings, bridges and other structures in cities first hand, the Foundation's hope is that the Fellowship will help the student gain a critical appreciation of how structures can positively respond to humanizing density in our cities, thus influencing the teaching and practice of structural engineering in the future.

#### **2. Eligibility**

- 2.1 Applicant must be graduating with a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or Ph.D. in civil or architectural engineering with a specialization in structural engineering from a professionally accredited degree program at a U.S. school between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. U.S. citizenship is not required.
- 2.2 Candidates must intend to enter the professional practice of structural engineering in the field of buildings or bridges.

#### **3. Application Process and Deadlines**

- 3.1 Candidates must be nominated by the dean or department chair via U.S. mail using the nomination form attached or on the website. Forms must be received no later than 5:00pm (CST), Monday, December 10, 2018. Forms received after this time may not be considered.
- 3.2 An identification number will be assigned to each candidate. Candidates will be notified of their number via e-mail. This number is random and does not reflect the order in which a submission will be judged. The identification number is to assure the anonymity of each candidate and should be included on each page of the submission.
- 3.3. Submission materials, as outlined in Sec. 4, must be received no later than 5:00pm (CST), Monday, January 21, 2019. Submissions received later than 5:00 p.m. will not be considered.
- 3.4. The jury will meet in February 2019. The winner will be notified no later than Friday, March 8, 2019.
- 3.5. The intention is to award one Structural Engineering Traveling Fellowship, but the Foundation reserves right to choose not to award, to co-award, or to split the prize as the jury deems appropriate.

## Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation

### 4. Submission Requirements

- 4.1 The completed **Cover Sheet** clipped to the submission so that it can be easily removed prior to judging.
- 4.2 A sealed **Letter of Recommendation** on school letterhead from a faculty member. The letter should be no longer than two pages and should address the student's specific strengths and how the award will further his/her growth.
- 4.3 An **Essay** using the following guidelines:
  - Applicant should describe his/her aspirations for research related to the Goal of the Fellowship: structures which humanize density in our cities. Describe the intended subjects and specifics of the research and how the results of the research will be considered in practice.
  - Applicant is encouraged to select one structure or group of structures in a city which they believe humanizes density and explain why.
  - Essay should include images that support the thesis
  - School may provide guidance in essay preparation; however, work must be entirely that of student.
  - Essays should be two to four pages in length, including figures and illustrations.
  - Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced with appropriate heading, subheading, labeling and footnoting as necessary. Include assigned identification number on each page.
  - Nothing that identifies candidate sex, race, creed or school may be included in content.
- 4.4 A **Travel Itinerary** using the following guidelines
  - Itinerary should include city(ies) of study and an explanation of how the itinerary was selected. The itinerary should support the essay thesis and the role building and/or bridge structures have in our cities.
  - Itinerary and explanation must not exceed four pages. Include assigned identification number on each page
  - Nothing that identifies candidate sex, race, creed or school may be included in content.
- 4.5 The **Copyright Release Statement** (attached). The winning submission will become part of the SOM Foundation's archive. The Foundation reserves the right to use the winning submission — and winner's monthly memos and final report — or any portion of them in press releases, presentations, exhibits, history books and similar publications, as well as for public access for student and educational purposes in all media, including the Internet.
- 4.6 Retain a copy of your submission for your professional files. Originals will not be returned.

## Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation

### 5. Submittal

- 5.1 Candidates are strongly advised to send their submission via a delivery service that can be tracked (i.e. FedEx, DHL, UPS).
- 5.2 Hand deliveries must be received and signed for at the address below no later 5:00 p.m. CST, Monday, January 21, 2019.

5.3. Address: Nancy A. Abshire AIA RIBA  
Executive Director SOM Foundation  
224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60604

Encl: Submission/Structural Engineering

### 6. Notification of Award

- 6.1 Winners and their schools will be notified by phone and in writing no later than Friday, March 8, 2019.
- 6.2 Each award recipient's submission is incorporated into the Foundation's archive, and each recipient is responsible for retaining a copy of the material prior to submission. Originals will not be returned for any reason.

### 7. Recipient Responsibilities

- 7.1 By accepting an award, the recipient agrees to:
  - complete his or her research and travel by December 31, 2019 or within 18 months of graduation, depending on circumstances
  - all Fellowship money will be forfeited to the Foundation in event research and/or travel is not completed within those 18 months, unless written approval is obtained from SOM Foundation Executive Director.
  - provide monthly progress reports (via e-mail or letter) to the Foundation Executive Director
  - file a final report (see below) within four months after completing research and travel
- 7.2 Each recipient also is required to submit an update in letter form detailing his or her research plans and/or travel itinerary for approval prior to undertaking a Fellowship. The Foundation expects actual research plans and/or study travel not to be less extensive than original proposal.
- 7.3 Upon itinerary approval, the award recipients will receive 70% of funds; the remaining 30% is payable upon receipt and approval of final report.
- 7.4 A minimum of four weeks is required to prepare and mail funds.

## Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Foundation

### 8. Final Report

#### 8.1 Requirements:

- Original plan of research/travel and statement of intent
- Final travel itinerary with city(ies) and sites visited
- Detailed description of the research conducted with respect to the Goal of the Fellowship: structures which humanize density in our cities. Include appropriate analysis, documentation, drawings, images of physical models, conclusions, etc.
- For each significant building or structure studied during travel, include a visual record of three to six digital images properly labeled with a brief description of each structure's important aspects
- Personal viewpoint and analysis of research studies and travel
- Final statement describing if and how the Fellow's original intentions were fulfilled by the research and travel

8.2 For the Foundation Archive, the Final Report should be submitted in a binder, or bound format (hard or soft) on either one or two-sided sheets, not to exceed "8 1/2 x 11" in portrait orientation.

8.3 For the Foundation Website, the Final Report must also be provided in a single .pdf file.

8.4 Final 30% of funds will be forfeited to the Foundation if a final report is not completed within four months after completing research and travel, unless written approval is obtained from SOM Foundation Chairman.

Fellows are encouraged to retain a copy of final report for their own records prior to submission; final report becomes permanent part of the SOM Foundation's archive and will not be returned for any reason. The Foundation hopes that over the years, each Fellow's report will become a valuable and convenient record for assessing the program's benefit to both the recipient and the profession.