

WEXNER DAVIDSON FELLOWSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

What are the eligibility requirements for Wexner Davidson Fellowship?

To apply for the Wexner Davidson Fellowship, **all eligibility requirements must be met**. Please note there are no exceptions to the eligibility requirements listed below. A new class will be selected each year, so you may be eligible to apply in the future if you are not currently eligible.

Applicants:

- Are based in North America and employed full-time by one Jewish communal organization.
- Will be between 26 – 36 years old by April 1, 2025
- Meet all the work experience requirements below by April 1, 2025:
 - At least three years of post-baccalaureate full-time work experience
 - At least two years of which must be at a North American Jewish communal organization.
 - At least one full year of employment at your current organization for the year preceding application
- Are a citizen of the United States, Canada or Mexico, or have documentation that allows them to work in that country.
- Receive the written support of the applicant's immediate supervisor and Executive Director of their current organization for full participation in the Fellowship Program (a letter of support will be provided for those invited to complete the full application).

All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply, irrespective of denominational affiliation, gender, racial or ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation.

May I apply for the Wexner Davidson Fellowship multiple times?

If you have applied to any of The Wexner Foundation's programs in the past, you are welcome to re-apply with an entirely new application. Because we are creating a cohort, each applicant pool results in different selections and re-applications are considered independently from past applications.

You are not eligible to apply to the same program two years in a row unless it is your last year of eligibility.

How do I know if I should apply for Wexner Davidson Fellowship or Wexner Field Fellowship?

Both the Wexner Davidson Fellowship and the Wexner Field Fellowship are intensive leadership development programs for Jewish communal professionals working full-time at Jewish organizations based in North America. Most notably, the eligibility age range is different: the Wexner Davidson Fellowship is open to applicants between 26-36 years old and the Wexner Field Fellowship is open to applicants between 37-50 years old.

Additionally, there are other programmatic differences between the Fellowships:

- **Institute Length:** WDF institutes run from Sunday – Wednesday midday in the fall and Sunday – Thursday midday in the Spring. WFF Institutes run from Sunday – Wednesday (travel day) in the fall and the spring.

- **Coaching:** WDF Fellows benefit from small group coaching during the first year of the program, and transition to an individual coach for their second and third years of the Fellowship. Wexner Field Fellows work with an individual coach for the entirety of the Fellowship.
- **Jewish Learning:** Wexner Davidson Fellows each match with a 1:1 Jewish educator and have a set number of sessions available annually. Wexner Field Fellows have access to reimbursable funding to curate their own Jewish learning experiences.
- **Travel:** the Wexner Davidson Fellowship includes a week-long immersive experience in Israel during a fellow's second or third year in the program.

If you feel that you have the time to commit to a leadership development program and are in a place in your career where you want to invest in yourself as a leader, you should apply to the program you are eligible for based on age—the most objective criteria!

What does the Wexner Davidson Fellowship consider to be full-time employment?

As long as you are considered a full-time employee by your organization and your supervisor endorses you as a full-time employee, that satisfies our requirements. Professionals splitting their time in multiple roles that add up to full-time hours are not eligible for the Wexner Davidson Fellowship. Your full-time employment must be at one organization, and this usually means at least 30 hours per week.

If I am a founder, or building my own Jewish organization, am I eligible for the Wexner Davidson Fellowship?

Your organization must be an established organization (either its own 501c3 status or fiscally sponsored) with a volunteer board of directors. You must take a salary commensurate to your experience. Please note that the Wexner Davidson Fellowship is not designed for entrepreneurs and there are great programs in the Jewish community for that.

I worked at my organization previously, left, and now I have returned to the same organization. Does this make me eligible for WDF?

You need at least one full year of employment at your current organization in the year that you are applying to the Wexner Davidson Fellowship. While previous employment at your organization may count towards your total years of full-time employment and years of working in the North American Jewish community, it will not satisfy the requirement of, "One year of service at your current organization" requirement.

May I apply to the Wexner Davidson Fellowship if someone else in my organization is applying as well? Can supervisors at one organization write letters of recommendation for two candidates for WDF during the same application cycle?

Anyone who is interested and meets the eligibility requirements is welcome to complete a pre-application form on the website. Multiple candidates from the same organization often apply to Wexner programs. Please note that it is extremely rare that two candidates from the same organization to be accepted into the same class.

APPLICATION

I previously applied to another Wexner fellowship. When I log in to complete my application, there is already some information filled in. Is this a problem?

The only information that will transfer over from a previous application is demographic information that already exists in our system. You may continue with completing a new application and will have the opportunity to update any information that has changed (except your email address).

I previously applied to another Wexner fellowship. Will my application decision for the other fellowship be considered as a part of the selection process for the Wexner Davidson Fellowship?

The Wexner Foundation maintains the integrity of each selection process, and everyone who applies to a program is considered equally for the program and class for which they applied. Selection Committees do not revisit or evaluate materials from prior application cycles.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE LETTER OF SUPPORT

I hold the senior-most role in my organization and serve as my own supervisor. Who would you like to hear from as my first recommender (reserved for direct supervisor)?

You should have whoever most closely serves as your supervisor complete your first recommendation, and the second recommendation can be from a person of your choice. If you are the Executive Director or senior-most employee of your organization, the Wexner Davidson Fellowship would view your board chair as your direct supervisor.

Who is eligible to write my second letter of recommendation?

Your second recommendation can be from a person you choose – a college or graduate school advisor, a previous supervisor, a board member of your organization, a direct report, or a beneficiary of your work. We ask that your recommender be able to speak about your professional accomplishments and working style, and career goals.

I hold the senior-most role in my organization and serve as my own supervisor. Who should sign my Letter of Support?

If you hold the senior-most role in your organization, you may sign your own Letter of Support as the Executive Director, and your board chair may sign as your supervisor.