

THE IDA B. WELLS SOCIETY INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING FELLOWSHIP

INFO SESSION



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INTRO & FELLOWSHIP PURPOSE



THE IBWS TEAM

Dr. Robbie Morganfield – Executive Director
Arlette Hawkins – Program Manager
Kawana Bowman – Project Manager
Julien Forrest – Finance & Grants Manager

FELLOWSHIP PURPOSE



The purpose of the IBWS investigative reporting fellowship is to provide journalists, who are currently not in investigative units, in-depth techniques from some of the most accomplished investigative reporters and editors in the field.

Through the Society covering travel and lodging expenses, and confirming employer requirements, this fellowship is designed to eliminate most barriers that will prevent a viable candidate from attending.



REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

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Applicant requirements

- Be a U.S.-based print, broadcast, online or multimedia journalists with 3–5 years of professional news reporting experience.
- Complete the application to its entirety.
- Attend all workshop sessions in Atlanta, GA.
- Confirm with their employer that they will be allowed to participate in the fellowship program and that their investigative work produced during the program will be published.
- Freelancers can apply, but they must have a news organization willing to write a supportive statement and publish their work.

Employer requirements

- Allow participants to continue to earn their salaries while taking part in trainings in Atlanta without incurring vacation penalties. There will be four trainings at least a weeklong, from February through July.
- Provide support and guidance to the participant as they take part in the program and develop a project.
- Publish the project.

TIPS TO GET THE GREENLIGHT



- You are bringing new skills back into the newsroom.
- You are providing a pre-approved and completed project back to your newsroom.
- You can provide a calendar in advance to help with scheduling.
- Thoroughly flush out your project idea (and updates between fellowship weeks) with your editor or news director to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- Think about how your project can be used across platforms.



APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLY BY JANUARY 3, 11:59 EST



- Access the application [here](#).
- You must create a submittable account to access the application.
- You can save your application as a draft to review later.
- Please include the following in your application:
 - Resume
 - Work samples
 - Project pitch
- Applicants will be notified of selections in January.



TIMELINE & WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Welcome (Virtual)

Thursday January 29, 1pm–5:15pm ET

- Time management
- Editor/Reporter Relationships
- Pitching and managing projects while covering your beat

Week 1 Process & Development

February 22–28

- Story Idea / Idea Generation
- Pitching and managing Projects
- Intro to data journalism
- Intro to AI and Coaching ChatGPT

Week 2 Investigative Reporting Mindset

April 12–18

- Backgrounding
- Sourcing
- Sequencing
- Interviewing
- Security and secure communications
- FOIA and Public Records
- Web research and investigations
- Fact checking and verification

WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Week 3 Writing June 7–13

- Writing for investigations
- Writing for narrative
- Incorporating data into narrative

Week 4 Final Project Touches July 19–25

- Final touches to projects, feedback from editors and peers
- Presentation
- Closing

HEAR FROM OUR 2025 CLASS



Q&A





IDA B. WELLS SOCIETY

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THANK
YOU