



Fellow Application & Readiness Questionnaire

Applicant-facing master form | First Cohort

Language • Leadership • Legacy

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Poetry Leadership Fellowship. This application helps us learn about you, the place and experiences you bring with you, what you hope to learn, and what support will help you participate fully.

You do not need to be a poet, have published work, hold a leadership title, or have participated in programs like this before. We are interested in how you notice, think, communicate, listen, and learn.

Please answer in your own words, we do not encourage AI usage here. Short, thoughtful answers are welcome.

Estimated completion time: 25 to 35 minutes

1. About You

Administrative information. These responses help us communicate with you and understand your current context.

1. Full name

2. Name you would like us to call you

3. Date of birth

4. Age

5. City or town and country where you currently live

6. Email address

7. Phone or WhatsApp number

8. What currently takes up most of your week?

This may include school, university, work, training, caregiving, looking for work, community activities, or something else.

9. How did you hear about the Poetry Leadership Fellowship?

☐ Referred by a school, teacher, or counselor

☐ Referred by a community organization

☐ Referred by a PLF team member

☐ Friend or family member

☐ Social media or website

☐ Other

10. If you were referred, who referred you or what organization connected you to PLF?

2. Your World

We want to understand what you notice, value, and carry with you.

11. Tell us a little about yourself.

What are some things that matter to you, interest you, occupy your attention, or help us understand who you are?

Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

12. Tell us about the place you call home.

This might be a neighborhood, village, town, city, school community, family community, or another place that has shaped you. What would you want someone who has never been there to understand about it? Suggested length:

100 to 150 words.

13. What is something around you that people often overlook, but you notice?

It can be something beautiful, difficult, ordinary, frustrating, funny, changing, or important. Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

3. Language

PLF is interested in language as something we inherit, shape, question, and use with care.

14. Choose a word, phrase, saying, expression, proverb, lyric, or piece of language that matters to you.

It may come from your family, friends, community, culture, another language, music, a book, or everyday life. Tell us what it means to you and what it carries that someone unfamiliar with it might not immediately understand.

Suggested length: 100 to 175 words.

15. Think of a time when you had something important to say but found it difficult to say it.

What made it difficult? You do not have to share private details. We are more interested in what the experience taught you about communication. Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

4. Listening, Difference & Leadership

16. Tell us about a time someone helped you see something differently.

What did they say or do? Did your thinking change? Why or why not? Suggested length: 100 to 175 words.

17. When you are part of a group, what role do you usually find yourself taking?

Select any that feel true. There is no preferred answer.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ I often start ideas | ☐ I help organize people or tasks |
| ☐ I tend to listen before speaking | ☐ I ask questions |
| ☐ I help when people disagree | ☐ I encourage others to participate |
| ☐ I prefer working quietly behind the scenes | ☐ I take responsibility when something needs to be done |
| ☐ I am still figuring out how I work in groups | ☐ Something else |

Tell us briefly why you chose your answer(s).

18. What does leadership mean to you right now?

Suggested length: 75 to 125 words.

5. Community & Legacy

19. What is something about your family, community, culture, generation, or place that you would not want to be forgotten?

Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

20. What is one question, concern, or possibility in your community that you find yourself thinking about?

You do not need to know how to solve it. Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

6. Why This Fellowship?

21. What made you say yes to applying for this fellowship?

Someone may have told you about PLF, encouraged you to apply, or you may have discovered it yourself. What made you curious enough to continue? Suggested length: 100 to 150 words.

22. Five months from now, what would you like to be better able to do?

Choose up to three.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Express my ideas clearly | ☐ Write with greater confidence |
| ☐ Speak in front of other people | ☐ Listen more carefully |
| ☐ Understand people whose experiences differ from mine | ☐ Work collaboratively |
| ☐ Ask better questions | ☐ Understand my community differently |
| ☐ Take initiative | ☐ Communicate during disagreement |
| ☐ Use poetry or creative writing | ☐ Tell stories |
| ☐ Learn from young people in other places | ☐ Something else |

Tell us briefly why these choices matter to you.

7. A Small Creative Response

This is not a poetry test. We are interested in what you notice and how you choose to give it language.

23. Five-minute noticing exercise

Stop wherever you are for a moment. Notice what is around you. Write about what you can see, hear, smell, feel, remember, or wonder about. You may write a paragraph, a poem, a list, fragments, or another form that feels natural to you. We are not judging grammar, spelling, poetic technique, or whether this sounds like a "good poem." Maximum: 200 words.

8. Participation & Support

These questions help us plan access and support. They are not measures of merit.

24. The fellowship lasts five months and includes two live online sessions each month, along with independent and collaborative work between sessions. Are you able to make this commitment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Probably, but I would like to discuss something
- ☐ I am not sure yet

If there is something you would like us to know, tell us here.

25. Which of these do you currently have reliable access to?

Select all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Smartphone | ☐ Tablet |
| ☐ Laptop or desktop computer | ☐ Internet or Wi-Fi |
| ☐ Mobile data | ☐ Quiet or private place for online sessions |
| ☐ Headphones or earphones | ☐ None of these consistently |

26. What would make participation easier for you?

Examples might include data support, access to a device, headphones, scheduling support, or another accommodation.

27. Are there responsibilities or conditions that may sometimes affect your participation?

Examples may include school, work, caregiving, household responsibilities, religious commitments, unreliable electricity or internet, or time-zone challenges. You do not need to share anything you prefer to keep private.

28. Is there anything else we should know that would help you participate, communicate, or learn well?

9. Language & Access

29. What language or languages do you use regularly?

30. What language are you most comfortable speaking?

31. What language are you most comfortable reading or writing?

32. Would any language support help you participate fully in the fellowship?

10. Starting Point

There are no right answers. This short self-assessment gives PLF a starting point and will be repeated at the end of the fellowship so we can understand growth over time.

For each statement, choose one number: 1 = Not confident yet, 2 = A little confident, 3 = Somewhat confident, 4 = Confident, 5 = Very confident.

1. I can express an idea clearly in writing.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

2. I can express an idea clearly when speaking.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

3. I listen carefully before deciding what someone means.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

4. I am comfortable asking thoughtful questions.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

5. I can work with people whose experiences or viewpoints differ from mine.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

6. I can contribute meaningfully to a group.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

7. I can communicate when there is disagreement.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

8. I notice details about my surroundings and community.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

9. I understand some of the ways language can influence other people.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

10. I feel capable of contributing something meaningful to my community.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

33. Complete this sentence: A leader is someone who...

11. Final Questions

34. What is one thing we did not ask that you would like us to know about you?

Optional.

35. Applicant commitment

I understand that the Poetry Leadership Fellowship is a five-month learning community. If selected, I will make a good-faith effort to participate consistently, communicate when difficulties arise, respect other fellows, and contribute to the shared work of the cohort.

☐ I agree

36. Signature / typed name

37. Date

Thank you for taking the time to let us know you.