



## **Yale Daily News Foundation Stipend Frequently Asked Questions Fall, 2016**

### **1) What is a YDN Foundation Stipend?**

Concerns have been rising in recent years that Yale students on financial aid have faced difficulties devoting substantial time to the Yale Daily News, or joining the News at all, because their need to work a campus job limited their available time. At the urging of several YDN editors-in-chief, the Board of Directors of the YDN Foundation -- the alumni group that provides financial and other support to the News -- voted in March, 2016, to make a limited number of Foundation-financed stipends available to students on financial aid to enable them to take on time-consuming positions as beat reporters or on the managing board.

The goal of these stipends is to ease the financial burden on those students and reduce or eliminate their need to work a campus job so they have more time to devote to the News. Another goal is to assist the YDN in recruiting and retaining a staff that mirrors the socio-economic diversity of the student body at large.

This is a two-year pilot program that will be re-evaluated in the spring of 2018.

### **2) Who is eligible?**

Sophomores with significant reporting beats and juniors elected to a managing board position that requires at least 10 hours of work per week on average are eligible to apply. Photographers and graphic designers are also eligible if they hold positions on the managing board that require at least 10 hours of work per week on average. The publisher is also eligible, but not other members of the business board at this time.

Applicants must be receiving a significant amount of financial aid from Yale and be expected to earn \$3,350 from term-time work during the year as part of their Student Effort.

### **3) How much are the stipends and how many are available?**

We won't know for sure until the applications have been received. During this pilot program, the YDN Foundation has allocated a total of up to \$15,000 per year for two years for the stipends. Individual awards are capped at \$3,000 per year. Within those constraints, the selection committee will determine how many stipends to award, and in what amounts, based on applicant pool.

#### **4) What are the selection criteria?**

Preference will be given to applicants with the highest financial need, with the most demanding positions on the News and for whom a stipend would make the most difference. In their personal statement, applicants should explain how they have met their financial-aid self-help obligations in past years, what other financial resources they have, what their responsibilities at the News will entail over the coming year and how a stipend would help them be more effective.

#### **5) What is the application procedure?**

Eligible students can apply as soon as board elections are held and reporting beats are assigned in the fall. Application forms will be available from Emad Haerizadeh and should be returned to him no later than October 5<sup>th</sup>. Emad will forward them to the selection committee, which consists of three YDN alumni directors: Melinda Beck '77, Paul Steiger '64 and Vivian Yee '12.

Please note that applicants must submit a copy of their Financial Aid letter from Yale along with their application. The selection committee will review the applications and verify applicants' financial-aid status with the Yale Financial Aid office. The committee will also consult with the outgoing editor-in-chief to verify applicants' participation in the News and the demands of their positions. Applicants will be informed of the committee's decision by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6) Will the applications and the awards be confidential?**

The information will be kept as confidential as possible. Only Emad and the selection committee will know the full list of students who apply. The selection committee alone will view their financial information and will decide the number and amount of the awards in consultation with the chairman, president and treasurer of the YDN Foundation. The selection committee will inform the YDN board, and the YDN staff, how many stipends have been awarded and in what amounts, but not the recipients' names. The current and emeritus editors-in-chief will know the recipients' names, and may be consulted during the year if questions arise, but they will not know how much each has received.

#### **7) How will the stipends be paid?**

The stipends cover a full year, coinciding with the YDN managing board's tenure, and will be paid in four equal installments: after fall break (Oct. 24); at the start of second semester (Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>); after spring break (March 27) and when classes resume in the fall (Aug. 30). The emeritus editor-in-chief will consult with each recipient periodically throughout the year to help assess how the program is going.

#### **8) What if I quit the News or fail to perform my responsibilities?**

You would forfeit any remaining installments of the stipend. These stipends are grants, not payment for your services and are not tied to job performance. However, you would no longer qualify for a stipend if you left the News or if you were no longer serving in an eligible position.

**9) Can I still take a campus job if I want or need to?**

Yes, although the aim of these stipends is to eliminate or substantially reduce your need to do that so that you can hold a time-consuming position at the News. We understand that applicants may have to commit to a campus job in the fall before knowing whether they will receive a stipend. But we hope that the financial assistance will allow them more flexibility in the spring semester and the following fall.

**10) Would receiving a stipend reduce the amount of financial aid I get from Yale?**

No. These stipends are intended to assist with the student self-help portion of Yale's financial-aid package, which can be met by outside scholarships, loans, parental help or work earnings, without affecting Yale's portion.

**11) Can I apply for a stipend for a second year?**

Yes. Students who receive a stipend as a sophomore beat reporter or photo or graphics editor can apply again as a member of their managing board in their junior year.

*If you have questions about the stipend program that are not answered here, please contact Stephanie Addenbrooke, at [Stephanie.Addenbrooke@yale.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Addenbrooke@yale.edu) or Melinda Beck, at [Melinda.Beck@wsj.com](mailto:Melinda.Beck@wsj.com)*