



*International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies*

# FELLOW



**Application Guide**

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## Purpose of Fellow Status

ISTSS Fellow status recognizes members who have made **exceptional and sustained** contributions to the field of traumatic stress studies and to the mission of ISTSS through research, clinical practice, education, leadership, and/or advocacy. Fellow status represents a distinguished career trajectory and commitment to advancing the understanding and treatment of traumatic stress.

This designation is reserved for individuals whose work exemplifies the highest standards of professional excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international engagement in the advancement of trauma science, practice, and policy.

**Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance.** Fellow status is a competitive designation awarded only to those whose qualifications and accomplishments clearly meet the rigorous criteria established by ISTSS. All applications are thoroughly reviewed by the Membership Committee and evaluated with great care to uphold the integrity and distinction of this honor.

## Why Become an ISTSS Fellow?

- Fellow status is an honor that reflects your dedication to the work of ISTSS and your contribution to the field of traumatic stress studies.
- You are recognized by your colleagues in the Society as a member of a very select group.
- All newly appointed Fellows are formally recognized during the ISTSS Annual Meeting and featured in ISTSS communications, including a spotlight on the website and social media to highlight their achievements and contributions.
- You receive an official ISTSS Fellow pin and certificate honoring your achievements and symbolizing your status within the Society as well as a digital Fellow badge for use in email signatures or professional profiles.
- You may proudly use this honorary title throughout your continued membership with ISTSS.

# Values and Expectations of Fellows

Fellow status reflects the trust placed in Fellows as respected advisors, mentors, and intellectual leaders, and carries an expectation of service to ISTSS as part of that distinction. Fellows are envisioned as individuals willing to contribute their expertise, through strategic advising, mentorship, consultation, direct service, or ad hoc support, as their experience can meaningfully advance the Society's mission, honoring past contributions while affirming an ongoing, service-oriented relationship with ISTSS.

ISTSS Fellows play a critical role in advancing the Society's mission to advance traumatic stress research, practice, advocacy, and policy. By contributing expertise, mentorship, and leadership in targeted ways, Fellows help ensure that ISTSS remains the trusted, global interdisciplinary leader in traumatic stress research, practice, policy, and advocacy. ISTSS Fellows are encouraged to engage regularly in at least one substantive activity that advances the Society's mission and supports its members. These activities can include:

## 1. Mentorship and professional development

- Facilitating mentorship sessions (e.g., one-to-one or small group) for student and early-career members
- Serving as mentors for Underrepresented Scholar Award and Global Travel Award recipients (as applicable)

## 2. Subject-matter expertise and consultation

- Providing content expertise to support ISTSS initiatives (e.g., consultations, working groups, rapid input on emerging topics)
- Participating as an expert contributor to brief guidance documents, member toolkits, or resource lists

## 3. Scholarly and publication contributions

- Contributing to JTS initiatives (e.g., special issues, editorials, commentaries, or invited pieces)
- Supporting dissemination of evidence-based practices through ISTSS channels (webinars, summaries, or member-facing "research-to-practice" resources)

# Values and Expectations of Fellows Cont.

## 4. Education and programming

- Developing or reviewing educational materials/resources (e.g., webinar content, training modules, learning objectives)
- Supporting meeting/program content (e.g., serving as discussant, panelist, or curated session contributor)

## 5. Leadership and ambassador roles

- Representing ISTSS as a Society ambassador (e.g., outreach at allied meetings; welcoming and connecting new members)
- Supporting strategic initiatives through limited-term task forces or advisory groups (high-impact, time-bounded service)

## 6. Policy and advocacy

- Contributing to briefings, position statements, or evidence summaries that support ISTSS policy/advocacy efforts

# Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following minimum eligibility requirements:

## Membership

- Must be a current ISTSS Regular Member for at least seven (7) non-consecutive years prior to application.

## Professional & Ethical Standing

- Applicants must be in good professional and ethical standing, with no active sanctions, disciplinary actions, or ethics violations from any licensing, credentialing, or professional organizations.

## Professional Experience

- Must have at least twelve (12) years of post-degree professional experience related to the field of traumatic stress.

# Pathways to Fellow

Applicants must demonstrate exceptional, sustained contributions in at least one of the following pathways:

## **Advocacy and Policy**

Meaningful contributions to policymaking, public education, or advocacy that enhances trauma-informed practices at the local, national, or global level.

## **Clinical Practice and Service Delivery**

Innovative or high impact clinical work or leadership in treatment development, implementation, or dissemination for trauma affected populations.

## **Education and Training**

Development and delivery of high-impact educational programs, supervision, or mentorship in trauma-related disciplines.

## **Global Reach and Collaboration**

Leadership in initiatives that foster global engagement in trauma-related research, practice, or education including efforts aimed at enhancing resource availability, improving access for communities with fewer opportunities, and widening involvement or increasing visibility through targeted efforts in areas with limited presence or minimal engagement.

## **Research and Scholarship**

Significant peer reviewed publications, books, or scholarly presentations advancing the field of traumatic stress.

***Your application will be evaluated in regard to ISTSS-related contributions (e.g., committee service, poster presentations, Board service, participation in annual meetings, invited talks, symposia, and awards) across all pathways. However, such contributions alone are not sufficient, or necessary, to meet the criteria for Fellow status.***

# How To Apply

## Application Materials

Applicants must submit:

- A current CV highlighting trauma-related work.
- A personal statement (1–2 pages) describing contributions to the field and alignment with ISTSS values.
- Two references, who are ISTSS members, who can speak to the applicant's alignment with ISTSS Fellow criteria and support this application.
- A completed application form, which includes indication of which pathway(s) is being used to support the application.

## Review and Selection Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the ISTSS Membership Committee.
- Evaluations will consider the quality, impact, and sustained nature of the applicant's contributions.
- The Committee may consult additional subject matter experts if needed.
- Recommendations will be submitted to the ISTSS Board of Directors for final approval.
- Applications are due in April and will be reviewed in May for final review at the mid-year Board of Directors meeting. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application before the ISTSS Annual Meeting.

## Fellow Status Maintenance

- Fellow status is an honorary lifetime designation but may be revoked for ethical violations or conduct inconsistent with the [ISTSS Code of Conduct](#).
- To maintain your honorary designation, your membership must remain active.

## Encouragement of Diverse Applicants

ISTSS strongly encourages applications from individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, disciplines, and geographical regions. We are committed to an inclusive and equitable recognition process.

If you have any questions, please contact the ISTSS Executive Office at [info@istss.org](mailto:info@istss.org).

[Submit Your Application](#)