



Overview

Congratulations for being accepted into the The TTN Arts & Letters Fellowship for Photography! This fellowship is about pushing your limits in the visual media of photography. When you capture an incredible photo, it moves something inside of you. Photographers are constantly searching for that photo, and on your TTN program, you'll have the opportunity to try and capture yours. Photography isn't just about pointing and shooting. You have to really think about framing, subject, lighting, and dozens of other elements each time you click the shutter.

Before You Leave (Optional)

While preparing for your trip and the photo collection you'll create, you'll need to do some research into photographers that have come before and **analyze one of these films or video essays** for creative inspiration and learning. **Choose 1 of these 3 options** but feel free to look at or study the other options if you're interested. The options are as follows:

- ***Chasing Ice (2012) - Environmental Conservation*** - Follow National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed for one purpose: to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.

- **Nerdwriter** - *Video Essays* - Nerdwriter1 is a YouTube channel that focuses on art form. The videos in the link below analyze two different photographers and their approach to photography. Please click on the corresponding questionnaire option below to view the YouTube links to videos.
- **Peter McKinnon** - *Tutorials; Video* - Mckinnon is a talented photographer and videographer that has made a name for himself on YouTube through tutorials, product reviews, and editing workflow information. Please click on the corresponding questionnaire option below to view the YouTube links to the videos.

Once you're finished watching the film or book you choose, test your knowledge by answering the questions in the corresponding worksheets attached below.



On Program

Once on your program, think about what type of story you want to tell with your photographs. Photographic style is created over time, and this is the perfect opportunity to try and discover yours. Try to take photos in unique ways that give your collection a specific feel. One of the best tips I got for taking unique photos was to always think to yourself, “could somebody take this with a smartphone” and if the answer is yes, find a new angle or perspective to take the photo! This is a simple answer to a difficult problem, but one I still think about as a professional photographer.

Remember to **take as many photos as possible**. If you're using a digital camera, there is no reason not to take as many photos as you can and edit them down later. You never know if the focus isn't going to be quite right, or the framing of the photo is just a bit off. Take multiples so you always get the shot you want.

The best photographers tell a story with their photos. They have a message. What is your message? Why is that your message? Are you going to try and show what you want everyone to see, or push an impartial lens into every subject, allowing the viewer to make their own judgements?

If you need help or have questions or need some advice while on your program, be sure to reach out to your mentors or TTN's resident photographer, Matt Miller, at fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com.

IMPORTANT: You must have your own camera to bring on your program that is not a smartphone. TTN has strict cell phone policies, so you'll need to shoot all of your footage on an external camera, such as a DSLR, a GoPro, or a point-and-shoot camera. For more info, contact Matt Miller.

Final Project

Now that you're back home, it's time to put all your photos together into a cohesive story. Not every photo you take is going to be amazing. In fact, as a professional photographer, if I take 300 photos on a shoot, I know that about 30 of them will be high enough quality to publish, maybe less. Don't get down because of your throw away photos! Just find the gems from your time at your program.

Make sure to be critical of your photos. Is the composition correct? Does it have a clear subject? Is the photo blurry, either from missed focus or slow shutter speed? These are all things you should ask yourself for each photo you review.

Your final project should contain **20 - 30 of the best photos** from your experience. If you choose to do a custom final project that has more or less photos than the photo requirement, make sure you detail this in a project proposal to fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com.

You must submit your final project by September 15th to fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com.

Submissions should be uploaded to Google Drive or Dropbox and a link emailed to fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com. If you would like to make your photos into a photography book with descriptions, a video, or a website detailing your experience, that is fine too. Just upload the PDF file to Google Drive or Dropbox and email us the link.

Completion

Once you finish and submit your video project, you will receive the following:

- A Certificate of Achievement
- A Medal or Plaque Honoring Your Achievement
- A Recommendation Letter from our Executive Director (upon request)
- Ability to add 'Arts & Letters Fellow' to your college application and resume
- Arts & Letters Competition - The TTN student with the best final product will be honored with a showcase, shared on all major TTN channels (including our 100K+ Facebook followers, 20K+ Instagram followers, etc.)

That's all you'll need to do to complete the Fellowship! Let us know if you have any questions. We can't wait to see what you create!

EXAMPLE: 2023 Photography Final Project Evaluation Rubric

Student:

Final Project Format:

Fellowship Reviewer:

Did the final project meet the length requirements of 15-30 Photos? ___YES ___NO (1 Point)

CRITERIA	<u>Excellent</u> 3 Points	<u>Great</u> 2 Points	<u>Good</u> 1 Point	<u>Needs Revision</u> 0 Points
Overall Aesthetics	<i>Photos are well composed with intention for shape, subject, color, and light.</i>	<i>Photos have intention for shape, subject, color, and light.</i>	<i>Most photos have intention for shape, subject, color, and light.</i>	<i>Photos do not seem to have intention for shape, subject, color, and light.</i>
Subject	<i>The subject is clear and the composition accents the subject perfectly</i>	<i>The subject is clear and composed correctly.</i>	<i>The subject is clear.</i>	<i>The subject is unclear or placed in an awkward composition.</i>
Technique	<i>The subject is in focus, exposure is correct, and the images are clear.</i>	<i>Subject is in focus and exposure is correct, with some minor issues in a few photos</i>	<i>Focus is correct, but the photos have multiple issues</i>	<i>Photos have many technical issues, such as focus, exposure, or clarity.</i>
Creativity	<i>Photos are taken with intention to create a unique perspective of subject and photographic style.</i>	<i>Most photos are unique and have their own photographic style.</i>	<i>Only a few photos are unique and have intention behind photographic style.</i>	<i>Photos have very little or no intention for creativity or style.</i>
Connection to TTN Experience	<i>Photos all connect to each other in an underlying theme that is connected with the TTN experience.</i>	<i>Photos have an underlying theme (can be connected by style).</i>	<i>Most photos have some underlying theme.</i>	<i>None of the photos connect to each other or the TTN experience.</i>

A score **above a 6** is considered a passing grade for your final project.
A score of **6 or below** will require the student to revise their submission.

EVALUATION SCORE: ___