

Webinar

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)



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¹Division of Biological Infrastructure

²Division of Integrative Organismal Systems

Directorate for Biological Sciences

13 October 2015



Roadmap for Today's Webinar

- Overview of NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology
- Finding detailed information about the program
- Goals and advice for applicants
- Specific information on the 3 Competitive Areas:
 - Area 1: Broadening Participation in Biology
 - Area 2: Using Biological Collections
 - Area 3: National Plant Genome Initiative
 - Information specific to Area 3 indicated by
- Submission requirements





Important Resources

- NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg
- BIO Postdoctoral Fellowships Program webpage:
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf15501
- BIO Postdoctoral Fellowships Program Solicitation
15-501 <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15501/nsf15501.htm>
- **More Info about Focus Area**
#3 http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5338&org=BI





Overview of PRFB

- Goals:
 - Support independent research and training of recent recipients of the doctoral degree
 - Foster human resource development in biology
- Stipend (salary): \$54,000, plus \$15,000 per year for research, training, travel, fringe benefits
- Duration of fellowship:
 - Areas 1 & 2: Can be 2 or 3 years
 - Area 3: Up to 3 years





Program Eligibility

- You must:
 - Be a US citizen or permanent resident¹
 - Have a doctorate in an appropriate field²
- You must NOT have:
 - Served in any postdoctoral position³
 - For more than 6 full time months¹ (Areas 1&2)
 - For more than 12 full time months¹ (Area 3)
 - Submitted the same research project to another NSF postdoctoral fellowship program



¹At the time of application

²Prior to beginning fellowship

³Any position requiring a PhD




Data from 2015

Postdoctoral fellowship program	Number of submissions	Number of awards	Success rate (% funded)
Area 1 (Broadening Participation)	62	26	42%
Area 2 (Biological Collections)	96	29	30%
Area 3 (National Plant Genome Initiative)	36	9	25%



Program Description Webpage




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Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

CONTACTS

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Diane Jofuku Okamuro	dblpgr@nsf.gov	(703) 292-4400	

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Solicitation [15-501](#) 

Important Information for Proposers

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) (NSF 15-1), is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and, implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200). Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 15-1 apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity.

DUE DATES

Full Proposal Deadline Date: November 3, 2015
First Tuesday in November, Annually Thereafter

SYNOPSIS

The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) awards Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology to recent recipients of the doctoral degree for research and training in *selected* areas supported by BIO and with special goals for human resource development in biology. The fellowships encourage independence at an early stage of the research career to permit Fellows to pursue their research and training goals in the most appropriate research locations regardless of the availability of funding for the Fellows at that site. For FY 2015 and beyond, these BIO programs are **(1) Broadening Participation of Groups Under-represented in Biology, (2) Research Using Biological Collections, and (3) National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**. These areas change periodically as new scientific



Solicitation Page

Read this
document
carefully!

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 15-501

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S): NSF 12-497



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Biological Sciences

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

January 08, 2015

November 03, 2015

First Tuesday in November, Annually Thereafter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

The competitive area on Intersections between Biology and Math and Physical Sciences has been replaced with Postdoctoral Research Fellowships Using Collections. A separate competitive area for international fellowships has also been discontinued but all active competitive areas will accept applications for foreign tenure.

Eligibility criteria have been revised.

Transforming Undergraduate Biology Education (TUBE) was discontinued in FY 2014; teaching options are no longer being offered.

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the revised NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) ([NSF 15-1](#)), which is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200).

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

Synopsis of Program:

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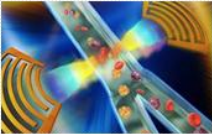
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September 28, 2015
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Chip-based technology enables reliable direct detection of Ebola virus
September 25, 2015
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Nano-mechanical study offers new assessment of silicon for next-gen batteries
September 24, 2015
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A fast cell sorter shrinks to cell phone size
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First-ever octopus genome sequenced
August 12, 2015

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- Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)-All deadlines are 5PM PI Local Time**
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Contact: Michael J. Vanni

Phone: 703-292-8470

Email: bio_dbi_prfb@nsf.gov

Contact: Carter Kimsey

Phone: 703-292-8470

Email: bio_dbi_prfb@nsf.gov

Contact: Diane Jofuku Okamura

Phone: 703-292-4400

Email: dbipgr@nsf.gov

Program Description

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Click here to find a description of the program and the 'solicitation'

(Can be downloaded as pdf)

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Detailed Application Instructions

How to Apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology in FastLane

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB) NSF 15-501

Deadline: January 8, 2015 and the first Tuesday in November thereafter through 2018

Contacts for Competitive Areas 1 and 2:

Phone: 703 292-8470

Email: bio-dbi-prfb@nsf.gov

Contact for Competitive Area 3:

Phone: 703 292-4400

Email: dbipgr@nsf.gov

I. Important Proposal Preparation Information.

Be sure you are eligible. An individual is eligible to submit an application for a postdoctoral fellowship if all of the requirements below are met. If you fail to meet any eligibility criterion, your application will be returned without review.



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NSF Organization

- Direct For Social, Behav & Economic Scie(54)
- Direct For Biological Sciences(568)

Award Amount

- Less than or equal \$50,000(35)
- Between \$50,001 - \$100,000(47)
- Between \$100,001 - \$500,000(538)
- Between \$500,001 - \$1,000,000(2)

Award Instrument

- Standard Grant(47)
- Continuing Grant(36)
- Fellowship(539)

- NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology FY 2012**
Award Number:1202716; Principal Investigator:Paulo Olivas; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Olivas Paulo C;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:01/01/2013; Award Amount:\$123,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Symposium: From Cells to Developmental Systems and Beyond: A Symposium Honoring Ernest Everett Just, in the Fall of 2008 at Howard University, Washington, DC**
Award Number:0830114; Principal Investigator:Walton Byrnes; Co-Principal Investigator:Stuart Newman; Organization:Howard University;NSF Organization:IOS Start Date:09/01/2008; Award Amount:\$18,382.00; Relevance:96.0;
- NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology for FY 2009**
Award Number:0905698; Principal Investigator:James Walters; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Walters James R;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:01/01/2010; Award Amount:\$189,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Informatics for FY 2003**
Award Number:0306158; Principal Investigator:Kenneth Angielczyk; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Angielczyk, Kenneth D;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:09/01/2003; Award Amount:\$100,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Cultivating Responsible Wellbeing in STEM: Social Engagement through Personal Ethics**
Award Number:1449489; Principal Investigator:Marcel Castro-Sitiriche; Co-Principal Investigator:William Frey, Aidsa Santiago-Roman, Luis Jimenez, Christopher Papadopoulos, Marcel Castro-Sitiriche, Christopher Papadopoulos; Organization:University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez;NSF Organization:SES Start Date:09/01/2014; Award Amount:\$500,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- RIG: Evolution of Neural Codes: Insights from the Crocodylian Dome Pressure Receptors**
Award Number:0817208; Principal Investigator:Daphne Soares; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:University of Maryland College Park;NSF Organization:IOS Start Date:09/01/2008; Award Amount:\$174,999.00; Relevance:96.0;
- NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology FY 2010**
Award Number:1002993; Principal Investigator:Brandi Coyner; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Coyner Brandi S;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:01/01/2011; Award Amount:\$189,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Minority Graduate Student Travel Award**
Award Number:9414722; Principal Investigator:Ilsa Rovira; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Travel Award;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:06/01/1994; Award Amount:\$965.00; Relevance:96.0;
- NSF Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for FY 1996**
Award Number:9628913; Principal Investigator:Kelly Zamudio; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:CA Fellowships;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:01/01/1997; Award Amount:\$80,000.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Graduate Student Travel Award**
Award Number:9522632; Principal Investigator:Kelly Zamudio; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:WA Fellowships;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:09/01/1995; Award Amount:\$655.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship: Graduate Student Travel Award for 1996**
Award Number:9633954; Principal Investigator:Melissa Bennett; Co-Principal Investigator:; Organization:Travel Award;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:05/01/1996; Award Amount:\$1,600.00; Relevance:96.0;
- Facilitation Award for Scientists & Engineers with Disabilities**
Award Number:9528467; Principal Investigator:Monica Driscoll; Co-Principal Investigator:Dewey Royal; Organization:Rutgers University New Brunswick;NSF Organization:DBI Start Date:09/01/1995; Award Amount:\$130,000.00; Relevance:96.0;

See also the PGRP website for Awards information:

http://www.nsf.gov/bio/pubs/awards/pgr.htm?WT.si_n=ClickedAbstractsRecentAwards&WT.si_n=1&WT.z_pims_id=5338&



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Goals and Advice

- Fellowships should provide **active mentoring** of fellows
- Both **research and training** components are important
- **Location of fellowship** should be at an institution different from your doctoral institution
- Sponsoring scientists, departments and institutions should offer a significant opportunity to **broaden your research focus and training**
- Engage with sponsoring scientist(s) to **develop an effective plan**
- Proposals must address both **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts**



Location of Fellowship

- Must affiliate with a host institution(s) at all times
- Host may be any appropriate US or international institution
 - Colleges & universities, non-profit institutes, museums, government labs & institutes
- **Priority given to applicants** proposing new locations for the fellowship
 - Applicant must justify remaining in the same location
- International locations encouraged for at least part of duration



Sponsoring Scientist

- Sponsoring scientist(s) should provide mentoring and guidance for both research and training
- Applicants must make prior arrangements with these scientist(s)
 - Start a dialogue with potential sponsors well in advance
 - Develop a plan integrating research, training, and mentoring
- Applicants may have multiple sponsoring scientists
- Statement should describe how the sponsor and host institution provide a research environment and mentoring plan that could not be provided without fellowship support



Duration of Project

- Areas 1 and 2:
 - Duration can be 2 or 3 years
 - If proposing to spend >1 year at an international institution, may request a 3-year fellowship that includes the 3rd year at a US institution
- Area 3
 - Duration is generally 3 years





Overview of Focus Areas #1 & #2

- Project must fall within purview of the Directorate for Biological Sciences (see <http://www.nsf.gov/bio>)
- Research may have broader impacts related to medicine and human health, but **proposals with a clear biomedical focus are not eligible**
- If your application mentions human disease, discuss appropriateness with a Program Officer **before you submit**
- If you are uncertain about whether your research is appropriate for BIO, contact a Program Officer



Details of Focus Area #1

Broadening Participation in Biology

- Goal: increase participation of underrepresented groups in biology
 - Native Americans (including Alaskan Natives & Native Pacific Islanders), African Americans, and Hispanics
 - Individuals with disabilities
- Must explicitly describe how the fellowship will broaden, or effectively encourage broadening, the participation of underrepresented minorities in biology
- All areas of biology eligible, from molecules to ecosystems



Details of Focus Area #2

Interdisciplinary Research Using Biological Collections

- Goal: Transformative approaches using biological collections in innovative ways
- May integrate biological collections with other types of data to forge new insights
- Advance understanding of biological processes and systems, or inspire new discoveries in other areas with relevance to other disciplines
 - e.g., mathematical, physical, engineering, & social sciences
- See [solicitation](#) for details on requirements regarding types of collections, access, etc.



Overview of Focus Area #3



- Project must address scientific questions that fall within the scope of the National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI)
- Goals of the NPGI:
 - Develop a basic knowledge of the structures and functions of plant genomes
 - Translate this knowledge to a comprehensive understanding of economically important plants and plant processes of economic value



Details of Focus Area #3

National Plant Genome Initiative



- Goal: Post doc training that targets interdisciplinary research in plant genomics of crop plants
- Emphasis guided by the National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI) five year plan https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/npgi_five-year_plan_5-2014.pdf
- Applicants are eligible with prior post-doc up to 12 months
- Research areas accepted
 - Emphasis on crop plants (not Arabidopsis)
 - Encourage training in *bioinformatics, quantitative genetics and interdisciplinary training with plant breeders*



Overview of Submission

- NSF Cover Page
- Fastlane application form (**unique to postdoc fellowships**)
- Project summary (1-page limit)
- Project description (6-page limit)
- References cited (does not count toward 6-page limit)
- Biographical Sketch (2-page limit)
- Current and Pending Support
- Supplementary Documentation
 - Dissertation abstract
 - Sponsoring scientist statement
 - Documentation from collections manager (Area 2)
 - Data management plan
- Two letters of reference



Submission Details

- Project Summary: 1 page limit, must include:
 - Overview, Intellectual Merit, and Broader Impacts
 - **Cannot submit without these 3 sections**
 - Check out recent post on NSF BIO Directorate blog ('Bio Buzz') for useful information on [Broader Impacts](#)
 - Area 2 (Biological Collections): must specify collection(s) to be used, and that you have access
 - **The Project Summary is important because it is the first thing reviewers will read!**



Submission Details (con't)

- Project Description (Research and Training Plan)
 - 6-page limit, including figures, tables, etc.
 - Present goals for both **research and training**
 - Must include a description of **Broader Impacts**, beyond your own training
 - **Write for an interdisciplinary panel of biologists**, free of jargon and unfamiliar acronyms
 - **Avoid repeating text** from the Project Summary



Submission Details (con't)

- References Cited (no length limit)
- Biographical Sketch (2-page limit)
 - Need to follow NSF format (see Grant Proposal Guide)
 - List publications and abstracts separately
- Current and Pending Support
 - Need to use NSF form (see Grant Proposal Guide)
 - List all current funding and planned submissions for funding, including other fellowship programs
- Abstract of Dissertation Research (1-page)



Submission Details (con't)

- Sponsoring Scientist(s) Statement (3-page limit)
 - Work with your sponsoring scientist(s) to derive an effective research, training, and mentoring plan
 - If you have more than one sponsoring scientist:
 - One scientist must be designated as lead sponsor
 - Submit only one statement, which integrates all information on sponsors and institutions (3-page limit)
- Biographical Sketch from each scientist (2-page limit)
- For Biological Collections:
 - Statement from collections director that research meets all collection policies / requirements, and that you have access
- Data management plan (2-page limit)



Submission Details (con't)

- Two letters of reference
 - One should be from your dissertation advisor
 - Letters cannot be from sponsoring scientist(s)
 - Letters should be submitted directly by the reference writers (not by you!), using FastLane
 - Make sure your referees are aware of the deadline!



Review Process

- Proposals will be reviewed by 3 panelists
- All panelists are biologists, but most likely 2 or 3 will be outside of your specialty
 - Write the proposal with this in mind
 - i.e., make it novel, interesting, and readable to biologists of all types
- Most applicants will be notified within 6 months regarding proposal success



Contact Us!

Program Officer Contacts:

- Areas 1 & 2 (Broadening Participation and Biological Collections):
 - Carter Kimsey (bio_dbi_prfb@nsf.gov, 703.292.8470)
 - Michael Vanni (bio_dbi_prfb@nsf.gov, 703.292.8470)
- Area 3 (National Plant Genome Initiative)
 - Anne Sylvester (dbipgr@nsf.gov, 703.292.4400)
 - Diane Jofuku Okamuro (dbipgr@nsf.gov, 703.292.4400)

This webinar presentation will be archived and available at:

<http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/nsf/151013/>

The postdoc solicitation is available at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15501/nsf15501.htm>