

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

Federal Programs and Fellowships for University-Based Postdoctoral Researchers

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Overview

This report contains a list of federal government fellowship programs that provide support for postdoctoral researchers *working at universities or other non-government institutions*. While not included in this document, many government agencies also provide funding for postdoctoral researchers to work at their own internal laboratories or centers.

The federal government programs listed below are organized by the agency that runs the program. Programs are additionally divided into those that provide money for institutions to provide training to postdoctoral researchers and those that provide money directly to individual postdoctoral fellows. For each opportunity, there is provided a program summary, eligibility requirements, size of the program, approximate size and type of award, citizenship requirements, annual due dates, and other special factors. The program websites are provided as a source for more detailed information.

This guide was produced by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC on behalf of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES). Lewis-Burke is a leading federal government relations firm in Washington, DC that assists HFES with the implementation of its public policy goals, which includes advocacy for human factors and ergonomics research, policy and regulations through outreach to Congress and Federal Agencies.

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

The primary function of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to support biomedical and health-related research. Included in this mission is research on the behavioral and social impacts of individuals and society as related to public health. Please refer to each program's corresponding link to see which of NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs), as well as which agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are collaborating on each program and to determine the areas of postdoctoral study that are relevant.

Institution Awards

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grants (Parent T32)

- Overview: This program serves as eligible institutions' primary means of supporting predoctoral and postdoctoral research training for individuals interested in pursuing research careers in biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research. Training activities can be in "basic biomedical or clinical sciences, in behavioral or social sciences, in health services research, or in any other discipline relevant to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mission. The training program should be of sufficient depth to enable selected trainees, upon completion of the program, to have a thorough exposure to the principles underlying the conduct of research."
- Eligibility: Only domestic, private or public institutions may apply for grants to support NRSA institutional research training programs. The applicant institution must have "a strong and high quality research program" in the area(s) proposed for research training and must have "the requisite staff and facilities on site" to conduct the proposed research training program. The training principal investigator (PI) should be an established basic, behavioral, and/or clinical researcher.
- Citizenship: The individuals to be trained must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S.
- Award/Program Size: Awards may be made for periods up to five years and are renewable. "Application budgets are not limited, but need to reflect actual needs of the proposed training program...NIH will contribute to the combined cost of tuition and fees at the rate in place at the time of award." Facilities & Administrative Costs "are reimbursed at eight percent of modified total direct costs."
- Due Date: Applications are due in three annual cycles: January 25, May 25, and September 25.

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-184.html>

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grants (Parent T35)

- Overview: The objective of this program is “to develop or enhance research training opportunities for predoctoral and postdoctoral level individuals interested in careers in biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research. Many of the National Institutes of Health Institutes and Centers (ICs) use this grant mechanism exclusively to support intensive, short-term research training experiences for students in health professional schools during the summer.” The program may also be used to support “other types of predoctoral and postdoctoral training in focused, often emerging scientific areas relevant to the mission of the funding IC.”
- Eligibility: Only domestic, non-profit, private or public institutions may apply for grants to support NRSA institutional research training programs. The applicant institution must have “a strong and high quality research program” in the area(s) proposed for research training and must have “the requisite faculty and facilities on site” to conduct the proposed research training program. The training principal investigator (PI) should be an established basic, behavioral, and/or clinical researcher.
- Citizenship: The individuals to be trained must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S.
- Award/Program Size: “Awards for T35 Short-Term institutional NRSA research training grants may be for project periods up to five years in duration and are renewable. Trainees selected for short-term training are required to pursue research training for 2-3 months on a full-time basis...Application budgets are not limited, but need to reflect actual needs of the proposed project.” Facilities & Administrative Costs “are reimbursed at eight percent of modified total direct costs.”
- Due Date: Applications are due in three annual cycles: January 25, May 25, and September 25.

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-185.html>

Individual Awards

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (Parent F32)

- Overview: The purpose of this individual postdoctoral research training fellowship is to provide support to “promising postdoctoral applicants with the potential to become productive and successful independent investigators” in “scientific health-related research fields relevant to the missions of participating National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes and Centers.”
- Eligibility: The individual must have received a clinical or research doctorate from an accredited domestic or foreign institution.

- Citizenship: By the time of award, applicants must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S.
- Award/Program Size: “Individuals may receive up to three years of aggregate NRSA support at the postdoctoral level, including any combination of support from institutional training grants (e.g. T32) and an individual fellowship award...Award budgets are composed of stipends, tuition and fees, and institutional allowance.” NIH does not separately reimburse Facilities & Administrative Costs for fellowships.
- Due Date: Applications are due in three annual cycles: April 8, August 8, and December 8.
- Special Attention: Before submitting a fellowship application, the applicant must identify a sponsor who will “supervise the training and research experience,” as well as a sponsoring institution. The sponsoring institution must have appropriate “staff and facilities available on site to provide a suitable environment for performing high-quality research training” and be “demonstrably committed to research training in the particular program proposed by the applicant...”

Source: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-113.html>

NIH Pathway to Independence Award (Parent K99/R00)

- Overview: The purpose of the K99/R00 award is to “increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented National Institutes of Health-supported independent investigators. The program is designed to facilitate a timely transition from a mentored postdoctoral research position to a stable independent research position” at an earlier career stage than the current average.
- Eligibility: Candidates must have a clinical or research doctorate, “have no more than five years of postdoctoral research training at the time of application (resubmissions must also comply with this requirement),” and have not already obtained a full-time tenure track assistant professor position (or equivalent).
- Citizenship: By the time of award, applicants must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S.
- Award/Program Size: “The K99/R00 award will provide up to five years of support consisting of two phases. The initial mentored phase will provide support for up to two years” for the candidate to “obtain additional training, complete research, publish results, and bridge to an independent research position.” For the K99 phase, the total cost per year “generally should not exceed \$90,000,” and Facilities & Administrative Costs “are reimbursed at eight percent of modified total direct costs.” Following the mentored phase, the individual may request up to three years of support to conduct independent research as a tenure-track full-time assistant professor at an extramural sponsoring institution or organization. For the R00 phase, the total cost may not exceed \$249,000 per year, and “indirect costs will be reimbursed at the extramural sponsoring institution’s indirect cost rate.”

- Due Date: Applications are due in three annual cycles: February 12, June 12, and October 12.

Source: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-197.html>

Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (Parent K01)

- Overview: The objective of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to “provide salary and research support for a sustained period of “protected time” (three to five years) for intensive research career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor, or sponsor, in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence.”
- Eligibility: “Candidates for this award must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree.”
- Citizenship: By the time of award, applicants must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S.
- Award/Program Size: “The total project period may not exceed five years.” Participating NIH Institutes and Centers will provide salary and other program-related expenses including “tuition and fees related to career development, research expenses, travel to research meetings or training, and statistical services.” Facilities & Administrative Costs “are reimbursed at eight percent of modified total direct costs.”
- Due Date: Applications are due in three annual cycles: February 12, June 12, and October 12.

Source: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-190.html>

Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research

The mission of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is to improve health care, which includes improving the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of care.¹ AHRQ supports outcomes-focused health services research, such as research on the factors that impact the care a patient receives. AHRQ divides its research portfolio into six priority areas which include: health information technology; patient-centered health research; patient safety; prevention and care management; value; and crosscutting activities on health cost, quality, and outcomes.²

AHRQ also provides fellowship and training support to bolster the pipeline of health services researchers through opportunities targeted at both predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers. The Office of Extramural Research, Education, and Priority Populations (OEREP) at AHRQ directs

¹ <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/highlt11.htm#mission>

² <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/cj2013/cj2013.pdf>

the scientific review process, manages the process for funding decisions, and directs research training and career development programs.³

Institution Awards

Institutional Training Awards (T32)

Keeping with the emphasis on ensuring a strong pipeline of health services researchers; and the focus of the Agency on improving care; AHRQ has previously provided funding for Institutional Training Awards through the National Research Service Award Grant Program (NRSA) (See NIH Section on Ruth. L Kirschstein NRSA). These awards support predoctoral and postdoctoral research training at institutions through stipends and partial tuition coverage for eligible researchers. **There are currently no open solicitations at AHRQ for this award.**

Sources: <http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm>, <http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/training/t32.htm>

Individual Awards

Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01)

- Overview: Keeping with the emphasis on ensuring a strong pipeline of health services researchers; AHRQ provides funding to help individuals with a doctoral degree develop the experience needed to meet the health services research demand. According to AHRQ “the primary purpose of the AHRQ Mentored Research Scientist Research Career Development Awards (K01) program is to prepare qualified individuals for careers that have a significant impact on the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans.
- Eligibility: Individuals with a research doctoral degree associated with a university or hospital may apply. The individual must provide a name of a primary sponsor or mentor on the application. AHRQ encourages underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply. Individuals must have a doctoral degree and be willing to commit to a minimum of 9 months. If an individual has simultaneously submitted or has an application pending peer review for any other PHS career award, or a research project grant (R01);” or if the individual is a PD/PI on another AHRQ or NIH career development award then the individual is not eligible.⁴
- Citizenship: Applicants must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or permanent residents.
- Award/Program Size: Total award size and number of awards varies depending on the number of applications and merit of applications that AHRQ receives.
- Due Date: Application receipt dates are February 12, June 12, and October 12, annually.

³ <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/oerep/oerepmiss.htm>

⁴ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-087.html#PartI>

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-12-006.html>,
<http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/training/rsrchtng.htm>

Health Resources and Services Administration

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. The Bureau of Health Professions within HRSA increases access to health care by developing, distributing and retaining a diverse, culturally competent health workforce.

Institution Awards

Ruth K. Kirchstein National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant

- Overview: This program promotes the development of new or enhancement of existing postdoctoral research training programs related to primary care research.
- Eligibility: Eligible applicants are public or non-profit private hospitals; schools or approved residency or educational programs for allopathic or osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or physician assistants; or other public or private non-profit entities.
- Award/Program Size: The estimated total amount for the current competition is \$7.5 million with average award size of \$400,000. There is no cost sharing requirement.
- Due Date: The most recent application deadline was July 1, 2011. The upcoming dates have not yet been announced.

Source:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=38735F4A-6FA7-4A3D-878C-37D426A9A9C0&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=&pageNumber=&version=&NC=&Popup=>

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds basic research in all areas of science and engineering. This includes research on social, behavioral, and economic sciences as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Institution Awards

Intelligence Community (IC) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

- Overview: This program provides funding to postdoctoral researchers to collaborate with a university or research lab-based principal investigator and an intelligence community adviser on a research topic of interest to the intelligence community. For each solicitation year, proposals will be sought on specific research topics. Awards are made to principal investigators rather than directly to the post-doctoral fellow. Fellowships provide funding for two years of research support with an optional third year.
- Eligibility: Applicants must be affiliated with a US college, university, or select government research laboratory. Applicants must be current graduate students who will complete their doctoral degree by the start of the fellowship or recent graduates who have received a doctoral degree within five years of the award start date.
- Program Size: 12 fellows were funded in 2011.
- Citizenship: Recipients must be U.S. citizens.
- Due Dates: Research topics are generally released in December with proposals due in January annually. Exact deadlines for the 2013 competition have not been announced.

Source: <http://www.icpostdoc.org/index.cfm>

Individual Awards

Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) Fellows

- Overview: The SEES Fellows program seeks to address near term sustainability workforce needs by reducing institutional barriers to interdisciplinary research relating to sustainability and giving early career researchers an opportunity to gain expertise in a discipline different from their own. Proposals should include a research idea that is interdisciplinary and will allow the researcher to gain expertise in a new discipline. In addition, fellows must develop a research partnership that will enhance the impact or scope of the proposed research idea; these could include partnerships with other NSF projects like the Sustainability Research Networks (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503645) or Research Coordination Networks (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11691), industry, federal laboratories, etc. Additionally, fellows will be required to have two mentors – one from the host institution (the institution administering the award) to provide guidance on the

proposed research and one to provide guidance on the research partnership that must be established (the latter may or may not be from the host institution, but must be from a different discipline).

- Eligibility: Fellows may include researchers from two- and four-year colleges and universities, other non-profit organizations such as research laboratories and museums, as well as individuals affiliated with industry or state, local or federal government agencies. Fellows must either be current graduate students who will earn a doctoral degree by the time of the award or have already earned a doctoral degree and not have worked in a position requiring that degree for more than 36 months at the time of the proposal deadline.
- Citizenship: Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Award/Program Size: The total amount of stipend and benefit support per fellow per year may not exceed \$88,000, although additional funding of \$20,000 per year may be provided for travel, materials, and similar expenses, and \$10,000 per year may be provided for expenses related to international partnerships. NSF expects to make 15 to 20 awards each year.
- Due Dates: Proposals for 2013 were due November 26, 2012.

Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504673

SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)

- Overview: This program provides funding to postdoctoral researchers working in social, behavioral, and social sciences. For the current competition, two tracks are supported: Broadening Participation (SPRF-BP) and Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences (SPRF-IBSS). Fellowships provide two years of full time research support.
- Eligibility: Applicants must be affiliated with a US-based institution or organization, including colleges and universities, museums, national labs, and non-profit organizations associated with education or research. Applicants must be current graduate students who will receive a doctoral degree within 10 months of the proposal deadline or have already received a doctoral degree within two years of the proposal deadline.
- Citizenship: Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- Award/Program Size: Awards include a \$3,750 monthly stipend, \$10,000 per year for research and travel expenses, and benefits such as health insurance at institutional rates. An additional \$10,000 may be requested for international travel expenses. NSF expects to make up to 15 fellowships per year.
- Due Dates: Proposals are due the last Monday in October annually.

Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504810

Relevant Agencies Offering Post-Doctoral Experiences at Federal Laboratories

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense (DOD) funds research that is relevant to its mission, predominately drawing from engineering, computer/information science, and physical sciences. However, DOD also provides some limited research and education opportunities in foreign languages, social sciences, and medical and life sciences. While DOD has a number of programs for postdoctoral researchers working at their own laboratories, they do not support postdoctoral fellowships for researchers working at universities. Programs at DOD laboratories include:

- DOD National Research Council Postdoctoral Research Associateships Program
 - <http://www.national-academies.org/rap> (Overall program)
 - <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=9378> (AFOSR)
 - <http://www.nrl.navy.mil/estd/6870/postdoc.php> (NRL)
 - <http://nrc58.nas.edu/RAPLab10/Opportunity/Program.aspx?LabCode=76> (ARL)
- ASEE-NRL Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
 - <http://hroffice.nrl.navy.mil/jobs/postdoc.htm> and <http://nrl.asee.org/>.
- Army Research Lab/Oak Ridge Associated Universities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
 - <http://www.ornl.gov/ARLPostdocFellowship/>

Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) oversees federal highway, air, rail, maritime, and other transportation administration activities and functions. The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) oversees and coordinates DOT's research and education programs. DOT distributes research funds to state and local transportation agencies as well as academic institutions. DOT does not currently offer support for postdoctoral fellows.

Department of Homeland Security

The Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate is the primary research and development arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Directorate has three portfolios that address basic research through advanced technology development and transition, spanning six primary divisions that address critical homeland security needs: Borders and Maritime Security; Chemical and Biological; Command, Control, and Interoperability; Explosives; Human Factors and Behavioral Sciences; and Infrastructure and Geophysical.

While DHS does not support postdoctoral fellows hosted at academic institutions, there are a couple of programs that support postdoctoral researchers based at DHS laboratories:

- Transportation Security Laboratory Visiting Scientist Program
 - <http://www.orau.gov/DHS-TSLvisSciProg/programdesc.html>
- Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) Research Participation Program
 - <http://www.orau.gov/piadc/gen-info.htm> and <http://www.orau.gov/piadc/research.htm>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) conducts space exploration work in five principal categories: Science, Aeronautics, Space Technology, Exploration, and Operations. The Science directorate explores the Earth, Sun, planets, and the Universe. The Aeronautics mission directorate designs and tests new flight technologies that bolster exploration and lead to improved flight capabilities on Earth. The Exploration and Operations directorates concentrate on the International Space Station and developing new methods for human exploration in space. The Space Technology program invests in potentially game-changing technology with applications across NASA mission directorates. In education, NASA activities include support for scientific training in fields relevant to NASA’s mission as well as general outreach using space to inspire interest in technical issues and careers.

While NASA does not support postdoctoral fellows based at universities, the NASA Postdoctoral Program supports postdoctoral researchers working at a NASA center, NASA headquarters, or a NASA-affiliated research institute (<http://nasa.orau.org/postdoc/description/index.htm>).

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology. NIST is organized into four laboratories: Material Measurement, Physical Measurement, Engineering, and Information Technology. It also has a Center for Neutron Research and a Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology. While NIST does not provide fellowships for postdoctoral researchers based at academic institutions, it does have two programs for fellows to work at NIST sites: the National Research Council Postdoctoral Research Associateships Program (<http://www.nist.gov/iaao/postdoc.cfm>) and the Measurement Science and Engineering Fellowships (<http://www.nistfellows.umd.edu/> and <http://www.colorado.edu/nistfellows/>).