



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY  
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY  
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# NIFA

## Predocrotoral Fellowship Fiscal Year 2022

### Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Education and Workforce Development Request for Applications Overview

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# Predoctoral Fellowships Program Contacts

- Dr Ray Ali – National Program Leader
- Dr Erika Kraus – Program Specialist
  
- Predoctoral Fellowships shared email: [nifafellows@usda.gov](mailto:nifafellows@usda.gov)

Fiscal Year 2022 Predoctoral Fellowship Application Deadline:

**Thursday, October 27, 2022, 5pm Eastern**



# Essential documents

- [NIFA AFRI EWD RFA](#)
- [NIFA AFRI EWD RFA Part IV C additional information](#)
  - Content and Form of the Application
  - Detailed guidance for information requested, including:
    - Project Summary
    - Project Narrative
    - Additional attachments (Data Management Plan, Logic Model, CVs, etc.)
- [NIFA AFRI RFA Review Criteria](#)
- [NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide](#)
  - General guidance on using grants.gov
  - How-to on forms referenced in the RFA ('SF424,' 'R&R,' etc.)



# Predoctoral Fellowship Program Overview

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Request for Applications (RFA)



# NIFA

- Extramural science-funding agency within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area
- **Invests in and supports** initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture
- Provides **funding and strategic leadership** for programs that ensure groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice



# AFRI Priority Areas

1. Plant health and production and plant products;
2. Animal health and production and animal products;
3. Food safety, nutrition, and health;
4. Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment;
5. Agriculture systems and technology; and
6. Agriculture economics and rural communities.





# AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs)

1. Foundational and Applied Sciences
2. Sustainable Agriculture Systems
3. Education and Workforce Development

**\*\*All AFRI RFAs address the six priority areas\*\***



# EWD RFA

- Growing Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development for the Future
- Training or Retraining of Agricultural Workers
- Developing Pathways
- Advancing Science – *Predoctoral Fellowships*
- *All applications must address at least one of the six AFRI Priority Areas*





# Predoctoral Fellowship Purpose and Priorities

- Develop new scientists and professionals to enter research, education, and extension fields within the food and agricultural sciences.
- Cultivate future leaders capable of solving emerging agricultural challenges of the 21st century.



# Predoctoral Fellowship Applicant Eligibility

- Required to have advanced to doctoral candidacy, as determined by the institution, by the application due date

Thursday, October 27, 2022

- Must be citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States



# Expectations

- Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a full-time basis (i.e. 100% effort).
- The pre-doctoral candidate must be the sole Project Director.
- Project directors for Predoctoral Fellowships are expected to be working with a primary mentor or advisor who has funded research and that the fellow may work on another aspect of this research.
- The project scope should be within the 3-year timeframe of the fellowship.



# Predoctoral Fellowship Project and Grant Types

- All applicants should select one project type
  - Research
  - Education
  - Extension
  - Integrated
- All applicants, regardless of institution, to the Predoctoral Fellowship program are FASE Grant types



# Predoctoral Fellowship Budget Categories, or the way funds can be used

- Total Fellowship Maximum amount: \$180,000
  - May request up to 36 months (three years)
  - Restricted to \$60,000 per year
- Each year:
  - Up to \$35,000 stipend
  - Up to \$22,000 tuition, fees, fringe, supplies, workshops, travel, publications
  - Up to \$3,000 cost of education allowance
  - No indirect costs



# Content and Form of the Application

- Explicit instructions in Part IV C (separate document):
  - Information requested in the application's project summary, narrative, data management plan, and other components of the application.
  - Completion of standard form 424 (SF-424) found in the grants.gov application package
  - Completion of Research and Related (R&R) forms found in grants.gov application package
- (See NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for additional support)



# Content and Form of the Application, cont.

- Project Narrative
  - Maximum of six-pages
  - 12-point font
  - single line spacing (i.e., no more than six lines per vertical inch), including all figures and tables. Do not use a condensed or narrow font (e.g., Arial Narrow).
- ALL components of the project narrative (e.g., Response to Previous Review, if applicable; the Training/Career Development Plan; the Mentoring Plan; the Project Plan; and the Evaluation Plan) will be considered in accordance with the evaluation criteria.





# Project Summary

- Must indicate:
  - Names and institutions of PD and primary mentor
  - Project type (research, education, extension, or integrated)
  - Indicate the primary AFRI Farm Bill priority area of focus
  - Relevance of the project to the goals of the predoctoral program area
  - Relevance of project to goals of AFRI EWD



# Training/Development Plan

- Personal statement
- Overall career goals and objectives
- Any other training objectives
- Any extension and educational activities (e.g., Teaching in formal or informal settings) to enhance career development



# Mentoring Plan

- Identify a Primary mentor for support in
  - Application
  - Projects
  - Professional development (more than one Primary Mentor is acceptable only for Integrated Projects)
- Commitment of the mentor(s) is included in the evaluation criteria as it pertains to project personnel.
- The applicant should describe, detail, explain, etc., the role of the mentor
- A Mentor Letter must be included in the Documentation of Collaboration.



# Project Plan

- Introduction
- Rationale and significance
- Approach
  - Methods
  - Expected outcomes and measures
  - Pitfalls and limitations
  - Timeline



# Evaluation Plan

- A plan for evaluating progress towards **objectives related to the training/career development plan, mentoring plan, and project plan.**
- Milestones
- Indicators of success
- Dissemination plans
- Project type
  - Education
  - Extension
  - Research
  - Integrated



# Review Criteria

- Merit of the Application for Science Research, Education, and/or Extension
- Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
- Project Relevance

# Estimated Timeline of Competitive Programs

## Two months

- Request for Application (RFA) release
- Proposal writing and planning
- **Proposals due**

## Three months

- Proposals under peer review
- Proposal funding notifications

## One month

- Awards are finalized and made

A competitive program takes at least six months from the RFA released to an award being made to an institution.

**We will keep you updated as much as possible. We appreciate your patience!**





# USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>

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