



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
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OISE 11-002

Dear Colleague Letter: The Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)- Employment Opportunity for a Program Manager in the Developing Countries Program

Date: March 23, 2011

The Office of International Science & Engineering (OISE), within the Office of the Director at the National Science Foundation, announces a nationwide search for a senior-level scientist to fill an open Program Manager position in the Developing Countries Program.

The desired starting timeframe for the position is November 2011.

OISE serves as a focal point for international science and engineering activities inside and outside NSF, promotes the development of an integrated, NSF-wide international strategy, and manages international programs that are innovative and catalytic. OISE invests in programs that expand and enhance leading-edge international research and education opportunities for U.S. scientists and engineers, especially at the early career stage. OISE supports international-related research in any disciplinary field supported by NSF and in any global region. OISE is in the Office of the NSF Director and carries out its functions through close partnership with all NSF Directorates and Offices. More information about OISE can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/oise>.

Scientific discovery is a global enterprise and successful exploration at the frontiers of science and engineering increasingly requires international partnerships. International research collaboration allows the U.S. research community to work at the scientific frontier with leading talent, to leverage capabilities and resources, to develop solutions for problems that transcend national borders and to enhance national prosperity. America's next generation of scientists and engineers capable of operating effectively at the international level will be vital to maintain U.S. scientific and engineering excellence and leadership in a globalized 21st century. With science and engineering capacity and centers of excellences emerging throughout the world, OISE is recruiting for a Program Manager or Assistant Program Manager who will be responsible for developing and coordinating OISE's efforts to promote international research and education partnerships between research communities in the United States and in developing countries and to work across the Foundation to strengthen NSF's portfolio involving developing countries.

NSF seeks to provide strong support for the very best scientific and engineering research projects and more opportunities for such projects are arising in developing countries. However, as a domestic science agency with no foreign assistance mandate, NSF does not typically fund foreign collaborators' participation in collaborative projects. Therefore to better support projects that yield first-rate science within sustainable partnerships in developing countries, OISE is undertaking efforts to:

- Serve in a catalytic role to identify strategic opportunities for NSF to build collaborations within developing countries, including by identifying existing NSF programs and exploring new models for projects;
- Develop partnerships with organizations (e.g., other U.S. government agencies, private foundations, foreign and multilateral organizations) that work in developing countries and fund science and education efforts that complement NSF activities;
- Increase information flow about potential opportunities—within NSF, within the community of U.S. and foreign scientists and engineers, and within groups of organizations that fund international science and engineering research and education;
- Promote the use of appropriate advanced information and communications technology to enable

or strengthen research and education partnerships and networks with developing countries.

The Program Manager responsibilities will focus on creating opportunities and facilitating networks for U.S. researchers and research institutions to engage with counterparts in developing countries in order to enhance research excellence and to build a skilled, globally engaged U.S. scientific and engineering workforce. The Program Manager will also administer programs based upon his/her international country- and/or region-specific experience/expertise. The Program Manager will be responsible for planning, coordinating and administering programs which engage researchers, faculty and students in international research and education projects that link the U.S. community with experts, facilities, and other resources in developing countries. The Program Manager will work with relevant staff within OISE, other NSF research directorates and offices, other U.S. government agencies, private foundations, and foreign and multilateral organizations as well as with U.S. educators and researchers. The Program Manager will recommend annual and long-range budgets and programmatic activities given U.S. science policies/priorities, science and engineering developments overseas and evolving interests and needs of the U.S. research community. OISE program managers regularly engage in and may share management responsibility for NSF-wide initiatives and interagency collaborations. Additional responsibilities include: the administration of the merit review process and proposal recommendations; the preparation of press releases, feature articles and material describing advances in the research supported by NSF; and coordination and liaison with other programs in NSF, other Federal agencies, and U.S. and foreign scientific organizations.

Applicants must possess a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in any of the scientific fields supported by the NSF. In addition, six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial/policy experience pertinent to the position is required.

Candidates will be evaluated on the extent and quality of their experience, education, and research relevant to the position. We strongly encourage candidates to specifically address the Quality Ranking Factors below in your Statement of Interest.

Quality Ranking Factors

1. Knowledge of NSF's and OISE's mission and programmatic activities.
2. Knowledge of U.S. and international organizations and/or programs that promote scientific collaboration with developing countries and strong knowledge of studies and findings describing the opportunities and challenges of science and engineering collaborations with developing countries.
3. Strong knowledge of/experience working in one or more developing countries or regional groups of developing countries.
4. Knowledge of advanced information and communications technologies appropriate for developing countries and experience in use of those technologies in support of research and education activities.
5. Ability to manage a proposal-driven grant program, allocating resources to meet a broad spectrum of program goals.
6. Ability to cooperate and work with peers in other scientific disciplines and to advocate program plans and policies to individuals in the Foundation, other government agencies and academic institutions.
7. Experience in managing international research and education initiatives with developing countries aimed at providing faculty, researchers, and students with research opportunities.
8. Ability to effectively interact with foreign government officials and representatives of international science-related organizations.
9. In-depth understanding of U.S. and foreign scientific and engineering research and education trends and policies, with strong expertise and experience in one or more developing countries.
10. While not essential, an ability to speak and read at least one foreign language associated with the applicant's country or region of expertise is deemed desirable.

The Program Manager position recruited under this announcement will be filled under the following appointment type:

Temporary Excepted Service Appointment: Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary

appointments may not exceed three years.

Visiting Scientist Appointment: Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and placed on the NSF payroll. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

For information regarding Federal Temporary positions visit OPM's web site at:
http://www.opm.gov/Insure/health/enrollment/new_employees.asp.

For information regarding Visiting Scientist appointments, visit our website at:
http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps.

Individuals interested in applying for this Program Manager position should send a current CV and statement of interest to:

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