

Minority Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program Useful Information:

1) Minority Status – MPRF application does not require that the applicant himself or herself be an under-represented minority in science.

The major goal of the MPRF program is to help increase diversity and participation of (currently) under-represented minority groups in the SBE sciences. Eligibility criteria in the solicitation do not mention specific minority groups and the applicant himself/herself does not need to belong to any minority group. As long as the proposal addresses the stated goal of the program through intellectual merit, broader impacts (or both), all are welcome to apply.

1a) Under-representation - Under-represented status can only be established with proper data, for specific fields or professional ranks. Without such data, for example, simply being a woman in science will not be considered under-representation since there are many SBE fields where women are now almost equal or have exceeded in numbers in comparison to men (for example, in 2008, women were over 70% of all Ph.D. recipients in Psychology; see <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf11316/pdf/tab25.pdf> for data).

2) Health Insurance – NSF fellowships do not include health insurance.

Although NSF does not provide health insurance to the MPRF fellows, the \$5000 institutional allowance and the \$10,000 special allowance could be used for your health insurance coverage. Use of the institutional allowance for health insurance requires the institution's approval.

3) Taxes – NSF does not provide tax advice.

The MPRF stipend is considered "salary." Fellows are not employees of NSF and will not receive a form 1099 or W2 for stipend payment receipt. NSF will not withhold any income or other taxes from stipends or allowances. NSF does not provide tax advice and recommends that fellows forward any tax questions to a tax professional. Fellows are responsible for filing in any necessary estimates of taxes due and for payment of all income and other taxes, U.S. or foreign, which may be due.

4) Citizenship – MPRF applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident at the time of application.

5) Content Areas – SBE MPRF proposals must include Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences research activities.

5a) MPRF proposals can propose any activity as long as it makes sense for your research project. The MPRF solicitation is not designed to give applicants specific research ideas or guidelines – it only gives the general framework. Any research topic that falls within the

scope of the SBE sciences is applicable. Interdisciplinary research topics are welcome, provided that at least one component area of the overall project is situated in an SBE field of study. Appropriateness of activities will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers in comparison to the other proposals submitted in the same competition.

5b) The goal of the MPRF program is to increase diversity and participation of (currently) under-represented minority researchers in the SBE sciences. The program requires that awarded projects address that goal through the intellectual merit, broader impacts, or a combination of the two.

5c) Make sure that the proposal addresses this goal (see item **6b**) in a separate sub-section with appropriate heading.

6) 3rd Year of Fellowship – MPRF does allow for three-year fellowship proposals and extensions for a third year.

Three-year awards are only eligible for projects that include at least 12 months of activities outside of the U.S.A. Applicants must present convincing evidence and justification that a third year is essential for project completion.

Contact the MPRF Program Staff to inquire whether your project qualifies for a third-year extension. In the 2011 application cycle, third-year extension proposals are not being accepted.

7) Delay to Begin Fellowship Tenure – Awardees do not have to delay their fellowship if they have successfully defended their Ph.D. but have not yet officially received the diploma.

After you have defended your dissertation, have your Ph.D. advisor write a letter to the MPRF Program Officer stating that you have successfully defended your Ph.D. Send that letter with a letter from your graduate school that states you have successfully completed all your degree requirements and that your degree will be conferred. MPRF Program Staff will upload your documentation and process your award.