



NSF SBE

**(SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND
ECONOMIC SCIENCES)**

Cross-Directorate Activities

**Minority Postdoctoral Research
Fellowships (MPRF) Program**

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Office of the Director

Other Directorates

Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)

**Social and
Economic
Sciences**

**Behavioral and
Cognitive
Sciences**

**Science
Resources
Statistics**

**SBE Office of Multi-
Disciplinary
Activities**

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Cross-Directorate Activities (CDA) is administered from the SMA (**S**BE office of **M**ulti-disciplinary **A**ctivities)

REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) Sites

Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MPRF)

Follow-up Starter Grants (for ex-MPRFs)

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

- ◆ Human cognition, language, social behavior, and culture
- ◆ Interactions between human societies and the physical environment.
- ◆ BCS Program Areas
<http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=BCS>
Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

- ◆ Economic, legal, political and social systems, organizations, and institutions
- ◆ Intellectual and social contexts that govern the development and use of science and technology
- ◆ SES Program Areas
[\(<http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=SES>\)](http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=SES)

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



OVERVIEW of MPRF

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) offers Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MPRF) and Research Starter Grants **in an effort to increase the diversity of researchers who participate in NSF programs in the social, behavioral and economic sciences and thereby increase the participation of scientists from underrepresented groups in selected areas of science in the United States.**



Basic Requirements for MPRF

- ◆ **Clearly explain** how the fellowship award will increase the participation of under-represented minorities/groups in SBE sciences in particular, and/or science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in general, in the US. This goal can be addressed in the Intellectual Merit (if appropriate and supported by your research topic) and/or Broader Impacts sections of the proposal.
- ◆ **Read** the program solicitation carefully, paying attention to all the details. If something is not clear, feel free to email the program director.

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503424

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503424&ods_key=nsf09595



MPRF (Continued)

- ◆ The Fellow must affiliate with a host institution during the entire tenure of the fellowship. The applicant is responsible for making prior arrangements with the host institution and Sponsoring Scientist(s).
- ◆ Fellowship applications are submitted from individuals – not through institutions.
- ◆ You must log in to NSF FastLane and follow instructions to prepare your application. Start early!



MPRF (Continued)

- ◆ The fellowship is for 24 continuous months, starting on August 01 of the award year or January 01 of the following year.
 - Annual stipend: **\$45,000**. Paid monthly in installments of **\$3,750** directly to the fellow (via electronic funds transfer into a personal bank account).
 - Annual research allowance: **\$10,000**. For expenses directly related to the conduct of the research.
 - Annual institutional allowance: **\$5,000**. Paid to the institution for fringe benefits, including health insurance payments for the Fellow, and for expenses incurred in support of the Fellow, such as space, equipment, and general-purpose supplies



More ...

- ◆ International collaboration is encouraged.
 - May include trips to foreign collaborator's institution for research.
- ◆ IRB: Applicants whose research involves human subjects and /or vertebrate animals must indicate in the plan their awareness of regulations and guidelines pertaining to these types of research.
 - Successful applicants must provide NSF with documentation that the research has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate institutional committees.
 - Where it is needed, no award can be processed without IRB and/or IACUC certification.



Sponsoring Scientist

- ◆ You must choose an appropriate person from an institution (see program solicitation for details) to serve as your "Sponsoring Scientist". If you are awarded the Fellowship, this sponsoring scientist (usually a senior, established faculty member/researcher in your chosen field of work) will serve as your mentor.
- ◆ The "Sponsoring Scientist Statement" is a very important part of your Fellowship application.



NSF FastLane

FastLane Application Module has step-by-step instructions on preparing your MPRF application, including the Sponsoring Scientist Statement.

<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/index.jsp>

Follow the screen prompts carefully!

Having problems with the application module? Call the FastLane Help Desk (number on your FastLane screen) for quick and best help (the Program Officer is **not** the right person to call for FastLane issues).



Basic Requirements for Research Starter Grant

- ◆ To apply for the starter grant, the Fellow must hold a tenure-track position and be within one year since completion of the MPRF.
- ◆ \$50,000 one-year non-renewable award.
- ◆ Proposal must be written as per NSF GPG (Grant Proposal Guide) and submitted through the university's Sponsored Research Office.

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg



Standard NSF Review Criteria

1. **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

- ◆ Importance
- ◆ Qualifications
- ◆ Creativity and Originality
- ◆ Potential for transformative outcomes
- ◆ Conception and Organization
- ◆ Access to Resources

2. **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

- ◆ Training/Education
- ◆ Diversity/Broadening Participation
- ◆ Infrastructure
- ◆ Dissemination/Public Awareness
- ◆ Societal Benefits



Additional Review Criteria for MPRF

- ◆ How does the project broaden the perspectives and experiences of the Fellowship applicant and prepare him or her for a research career?
- ◆ How do the proposed activities help increase the participation and advancement of underrepresented groups in STEM fields?
- ◆ Are the sponsoring scientist and the host institution a good match to the applicant's proposed project?



Reporting Requirements

- ◆ For all fellowships, the Fellow must submit an annual project report through FastLane to the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Officer within 90 days following the anniversary of the start date.
- ◆ Within 90 days after termination of the fellowship, the Fellow is required to submit a final project report through FastLane and a termination certificate (this form will be provided with the post doctoral offer).
- ◆ Fellows are requested to report in their annual and final reports on their educational activities during the fellowship tenure, including mentoring and guiding students at all educational levels.

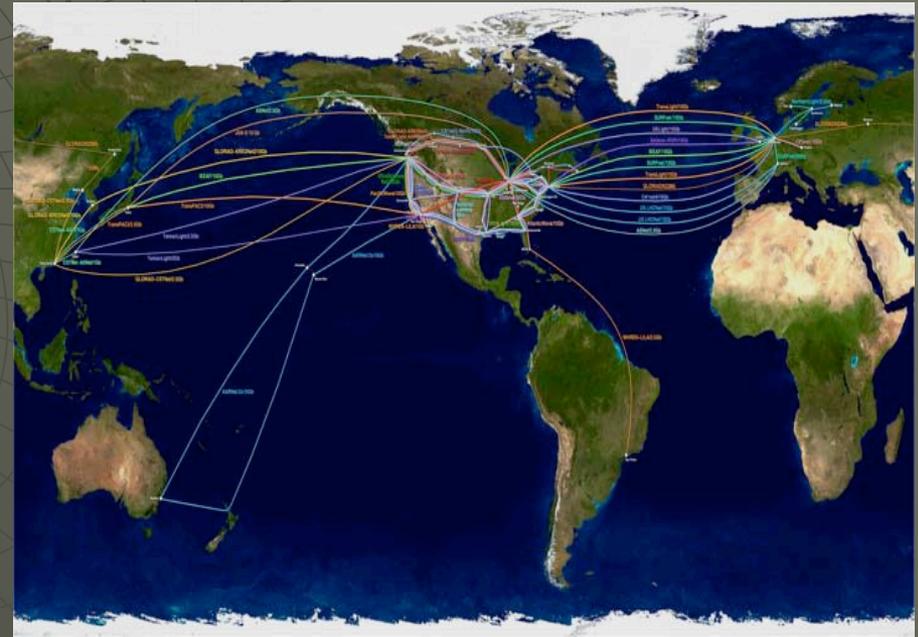


BEWARE!

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- ◆ Failure to provide final project reports delays NSF review and processing of subsequent pending proposals for the Fellow (or the Starter Grant PI).

BEWARE!





MPRF Topics and Potential Research Fields

- ◆ Any research topic that falls within the scope of social, behavioral and economic sciences is appropriate. See the SBE Division pages (SES and BCS) for details.
- ◆ SBE welcomes emerging fields that involve cross-disciplinary work both within SBE sciences and/or beyond.



A Few Examples of Emerging and/or Multidisciplinary Themes

- ◆ Renewable energy, climate change, extreme weather events, water resources, dynamics and quality
- ◆ Cyberinfrastructure in SBE sciences
- ◆ Computer simulation and algorithms, computation and cognition, use of mathematical modeling, computational social science, etc.
- ◆ Research on virtual organizations
- ◆ Complex adaptive systems
- ◆ Learning theories

This is NOT an exhaustive list, of course!



Useful Links

- ◆ Examples illustrating activities likely to demonstrate broader impacts:
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>
- ◆ MPRF Solicitation
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09595/nsf09595.htm>
- ◆ SBE/BCS Program Areas
(<http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=BCS>)
- ◆ SBE/SES Program Areas
(<http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=SES>)



Summary

- ◆ MPRFs and Follow-up Starter Grants are excellent mechanisms to begin a new Ph.D. scientist's research career – in many possible exciting directions.
- ◆ If there is something that is not clear after reading the solicitation (thank you!) feel free to email the program director.

QUESTIONS?

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