1. **Can I submit the proposal as an individual, not going through any university or institution?**

   Yes, SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are awards to individuals. Proposals are submitted directly by the fellowship candidate to NSF.

2. **Do I need to be affiliated with the postdoctoral institution at the time of submission? If not, can I propose more than one institution?**

   At the time of submission, candidates must identify one host institution at which they will be affiliated with by the time of the award. The sponsoring scientist (mentor) should also be affiliated with the same institution.

3. **I am already a postdoctoral fellow. Can I propose to continue my fellowship at the same institution?**

   Yes, as long as you have obtained the doctoral degree within 36 months before the application deadline and not already in a full-time tenure-track faculty position.

4. **Can I have more than one sponsoring scientist (mentor)? If yes, do they have to be at the same institution?**

   Yes, but when more than one sponsoring scientist is proposed, one must be named lead sponsor and information from all sponsors must be integrated into a single postdoctoral mentoring plan. The lead
sponsoring scientist must be affiliated with the same institution as the fellow but co-sponsoring scientists or mentors can be affiliated with different institutions.

5. Can I submit reference or recommendation letters?

Yes, the application must include two references of which one should be the dissertation advisor. Do not use the sponsoring scientist as a reference.

6. Can I choose a foreign institution (and a mentor at that site) for my postdoctoral work?

Though you and your sponsoring scientist must maintain a U.S. affiliation throughout the award period, the proposal may include an international component for which you may request up to $10,000 of additional travel expenses and identify a co-sponsoring scientist (mentor) at the foreign institution.

7. My project has elements from both the Fundamental Research and the Broadening Participation tracks. Which track should I choose to submit to? Is one track better than the other in terms of success rate? Can I submit my proposal to both tracks?

Some proposals may contain elements of both tracks, in such cases it is up to the Fellowship Candidate to choose which track to submit his or her proposal. Success rates vary based on the number of applications received and cannot be provided. You can only submit your proposal to one of the tracks during a given application cycle.

8. My project does not require any data collection or analysis. Do I still need the Data Management Plan?

Yes, all proposals must include a supplementary document that describes plans for data management and sharing of the products of research, or asserts the absence of the need for such plans.

9. I do not have my dissertation defense scheduled. What is the latest date I could defend and still be eligible to apply?

The last date to successfully defend the dissertation and complete all degree requirements is 10 months after the application deadline (regardless of degree conferral date). A letter from the doctoral institution certifying completion will be required prior to award.