



# SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)

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**Fahmida N. Chowdhury, Program Director**

**SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities**

**Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences**



## Revised Program

The SPRF program has two separate tracks:

- (i) Broadening Participation, SPRF-BP
  - Originally the SBE Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (MPRF)
- (ii) Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences, SPRF-IBSS **\*\*New in 2012\*\***

**\*\*Applicants should only apply for one track\*\***



# Eligibility

**The fellowship applicant must:**

- **Be a U.S. Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident**
- **Have a Ph.D. obtained within 24 months before or within 10 months after the application deadline**

**\*\*Applicants with full-time tenure-track faculty positions not eligible to apply\*\***



# Broadening Participation Track (BP)

NSF August 2008 Report:

“Broadening Participation at the National Science Foundation: A Framework for Action”

[http://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/nsf\\_frameworkforaction\\_0808.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/nsf_frameworkforaction_0808.pdf)

The report specifically states that:

“Researchers and educators seeking NSF funding may propose nondiscriminatory, nonexclusive strategies to broaden the participation of individuals who belong to underrepresented groups, e.g., Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and Persons with Disabilities.

It should be noted that, among the many fields of STEM, identification of a particular group as underrepresented may vary by discipline (e.g., women are underrepresented in some fields).”



# Broadening Participation Track (BP)

In addition, the Higher Education Act defines the term “minority” as:

- an American Indian, Alaskan Native, Black (not of Hispanic origin), Hispanic (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin), Pacific Islander, or other ethnic group underrepresented in science and engineering
  - <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst-list.html>

See also “Characteristics of Minority-Serving Institutions and Minority Undergraduates Enrolled in These Institutions,” NCES-2008-156, November 2007, available at:

- <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008156>



# Interdisciplinary Research Track - IBSS

## Definition of Interdisciplinary Research:

"Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

National Academies' Report "Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, 2004" and NSF's Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research -

[http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/additional\\_resources/interdisciplinary\\_research/definition.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/additional_resources/interdisciplinary_research/definition.jsp)



# Interdisciplinary Research Track - IBSS

**Additional clarification for Interdisciplinary Research:**

**“The Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) encourages investigators to submit proposals that go beyond the boundaries of traditional disciplines, span across the existing core SBE programs, or extend outside the SBE sciences.”**

**SBE Dear Colleague Letter: For Interdisciplinary Research Across the SBE Sciences:**

**<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12123/nsf12123.jsp>**



# Interdisciplinary Research Track - IBSS

Interdisciplinarity is a Spectrum ...

Different interpretations, various granularities, dependent on context.

- May be weak or strong; a combination of social psychology and developmental psychology is an example of weak interdisciplinarity, whereas a combination of economics and social psychology is strong, developmental psychology and computer science – stronger. The above are just examples.
- New training, new skills beyond your current expertise, new mentor, new institution – all make a strong proposal.
- \*\*In the proposal the nature, motivation, and need for interdisciplinary work must be clearly explained\*\*



# Budget

- \$45,000 Annual Salary + fringe benefits per institutional rates
- \$10,000/year research & travel expenses
  - Travel expenses for the Fellow only; may include no more than one trip for the Mentor(s), if justified and necessary for the project.
- Indirect costs at the negotiated rate between the awardee's institution and the NSF, considering this award as a "Fellowship".
- Additional travel expenses of up to \$10,000 may be requested if the Fellowship project includes an international component. For additional information see <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/iprffapp.jsp>



# Important Notes

- Proposals are to be submitted from the institution where the postdoctoral fellow will be appointed.
- The Sponsoring Scientist (“Mentor”) must be included on the Cover Sheet of the proposal.
- Sponsoring Scientist’s Statement must be included inside the 10-page project description.
- BP track: a section in the project description must be devoted to the proposed BP activities.
- IBSS track: a section in the project description must be devoted to present and explain the interdisciplinary nature of the project.



## Who Should Be the PI on the Proposal?

The prospective Fellow and the Sponsoring Scientist can be the PI and co-PI, in any order, as permitted by the submitting institution; **you must consult your university's Sponsored Projects Office**. If the submitting institution will not allow the prospective Fellow to be named as the PI or co-PI, then he/she should be named as a Senior Personnel.

**\*\*The prospective fellow should NOT be put in the budget form as a “postdoctoral research associate”. He/she should appear on the PI, co-PI and Senior Personnel section of the budget\*\***



# Useful Data Resources

They include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The NSF Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES):  
<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/>
- (2) The U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>
- (3) The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census  
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html> and Bureau of Economic Analysis: <http://www.bea.gov/>
- (4) NSF's Budget Internet Information System:  
<http://dellweb.bfa.nsf.gov/starth.asp>
- (5) The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights Lists of Minority Post-Secondary Institutions  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>
- (6) Science and engineering professional society reports and statistics



# Read the Solicitation!

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12591/nsf12591.htm>

***After reading the solicitation carefully***, if you need clarification on some aspect(s) please feel free to contact:

Dr. Fahmida Chowdhury – ([fchowdhu@nsf.gov](mailto:fchowdhu@nsf.gov))