Fellowship & Application Process Webinar - Upcoming Sessions

- Intro to the Fellowship and Application Process- September 30th
- Eligibility & Benefits Deep Dive - November 18th
- Finding the Right Research Opportunity
- Developing a Strong Research Proposal
- Highlighting Your Academic & Research Record
- Understanding Peer Review & Strengthening Your Application

Meet the Speakers

Jennifer Griffiths
Program Administrator

Melanie Suydam
Senior Program Officer

Agenda

1

Introduction to Fellowships at the National Academies

2

Overview of Application & Review Process

3

Q&A

Albert Einstein Memorial Statue
® 1978 by Robert Berks.

Introduction to Fellowships

The National Academy of Sciences Office of Fellowships

- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was created by an Act of Incorporation by Congress in 1863 with the stated goal:

  "…the Academy shall, whenever called upon by any department of the Government, investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art…"

- The National Research Council (NRC) was created within NAS in 1916 to address the scientific needs of the nation during World War I

- The NRC first began administering fellowships in 1919, starting with *The National Research Fellowships*, which were postdoctoral fellowships funded by the Rockefeller Foundation

- The Office of Fellowships administers postdoctoral and senior fellowship awards on behalf of government agencies, supporting researchers throughout the application and award process.

The original headquarters of the National Academy of Sciences located along the National Mall with the Lincoln Memorial in the background. Photograph from the 1923-1924 NAS Annual Report.

The Keck Center is located in downtown Washington DC and serves as the current headquarters of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

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NRC Research Associateship Programs

The NRC Research Associateship Programs (RAP) were established in 1954, modeled after the National Research Fellowship

The National Bureau of Standards (now NIST) was the first sponsor, followed by the Naval Research Laboratory in 1955

The objectives of the programs are:

- To provide postdoctoral scientists and engineers of unusual promise and ability opportunities for research on problems largely of their own choice that are compatible with the interests of the sponsoring laboratories.

- To contribute to the overall efforts of the federal laboratories.

Many sponsoring labs accept non-US citizens, as well as senior applicants who have held their doctoral degree for 5+ years at the time of application

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Air Force Science & Technology Fellowship Program

- Nationally competitive fellowship awards to postdoctoral and senior scientists to perform collaborative research at U.S. Air Force research facilities across the country

- Open to U.S. Citizens only

Role of the Agency/Sponsoring Laboratory

Explore the 16 Participating Agencies

You can follow the agency links below to read specific information on each program or to search for research opportunities.

NAME	ABBREVIATION	REVIEWS	EDUCATION LEVEL	CITIZENSHIP	AGENCY WEB SITE
Air Force Science and Technology Fellowship Program	AF STFP	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US	AF STFP
U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command	AMRDC	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	AMRDC
Army Aviation & Missile Research, Development, & Engr Center	AMRDEC	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	AMRDEC
U.S. Army Research Laboratory	ARL	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral	US, PR, and non-US	ARL
U.S. Army Research Office	ARO	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	ARO
U.S. Army CCDC Armaments Ctr	CCDC Armaments	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US	CCDC Armaments
U.S. Army CCDC Chemical Biological Center	CCDC CBC	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US	CCDC CBC
U.S. Army CCDC Soldier Center	CCDC SC	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US and PR	CCDC SC
Federal Highway Administration	FHWA	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US	FHWA
Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division	NAWCWD	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral	US	NAWCWD
National Institute of Standards and Technology	NIST	Feb., Aug.	Postdoctoral	US	NIST
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	NOAA
Naval Postgraduate School	NPS	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	NPS
Naval Research Laboratory	NRL	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral	US and PR	NRL
National Security Agency	NSA	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral and Senior	US, PR, and non-US	NSA
U.S. Army Research, Development & Engineering Command, NVESD	RDEC/NVESD	Feb., May, Aug., Nov.	Postdoctoral	US	RDEC/NVESD

- Supports and endorses the research project
- Confirms availability of facilities and resources
- Ensures project aligns with mission and priorities
- Refer to list of Participating Agencies for more information

Advantages of an Award

Professional Development

- Enhanced visibility and recognition in your field
- Experience working in interdisciplinary or applied science settings
- Potential to publish research and attend conferences

Strategic Placement

- Exposure to mission-driven research that contributes to national priorities
- Independence to conduct full time research of your own design
- Access to state-of-the-art government labs and equipment
- Potential pathways into federal research careers

Career Transition Support

- Career enhancement from nationally recognized and competitive awards
- Potential for follow-on funding or longer-term collaboration with the host lab
- Structured, high-impact experience that could bridge PhD to permanent research role

Mentorship & Collaboration

- Mentorship from host agency senior researchers and advisers
- Access to a robust network of former fellow scientists and engineers
- Collaborative environment across government, academia, and industry
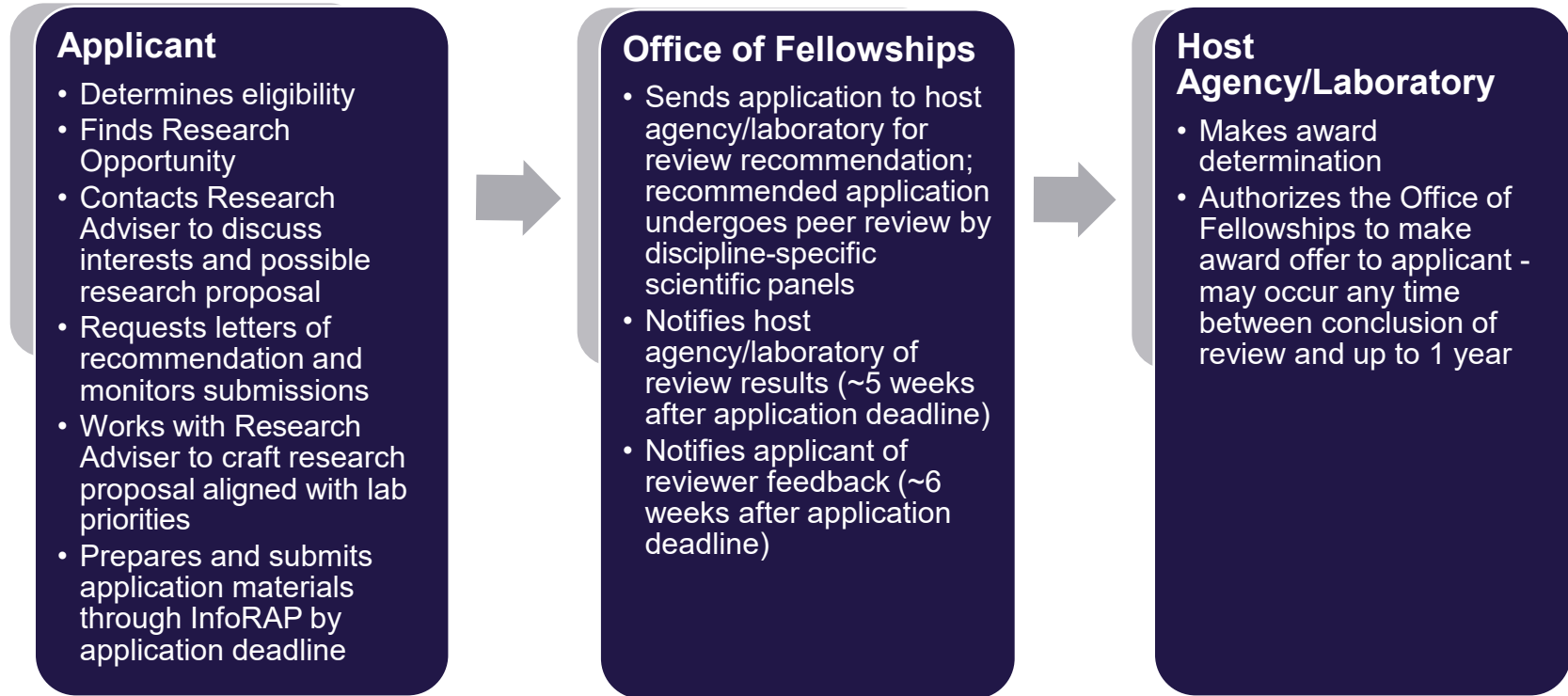
Overview of Application & Review Process

Key Dates

Application Opens	Deadline* (5 PM ET)	Review Finalized
December 1	February 1	Early March
March 1	May 1	Early June
June 1	August 1	Early September
September 1	November 1	Early December

*If a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the deadline is moved to the next business day.

Roles & Responsibilities

Applicant
- Determines eligibility
- Finds Research Opportunity
- Contacts Research Adviser to discuss interests and possible research proposal
- Requests letters of recommendation and monitors submissions
- Works with Research Adviser to craft research proposal aligned with lab priorities
- Prepares and submits application materials through InfoRAP by application deadline

Office of Fellowships
- Sends application to host agency/laboratory for review recommendation; recommended application undergoes peer review by discipline-specific scientific panels
- Notifies host agency/laboratory of review results (~5 weeks after application deadline)
- Notifies applicant of reviewer feedback (~6 weeks after application deadline)

Host Agency/Laboratory
- Makes award determination
- Authorizes the Office of Fellowships to make award offer to applicant - may occur any time between conclusion of review and up to 1 year

Eligibility

- **Education:** Ph.D., Sc.D., M.D., D.V.M., or academically equivalent research doctorate before beginning tenure at the host agency/laboratory
    - Regular Postdoctoral: < 5 years since doctorate
    - Senior: $\geq$ 5 years since doctorate

- **Citizenship:** Varies by agency

Research Opportunity & Research Adviser
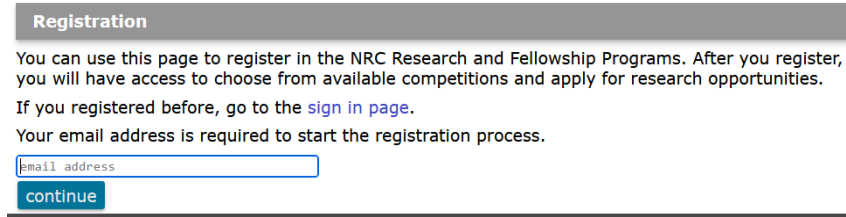
1. Search for Research Opportunities in the [InfoRAP database](#)

2. Contact the Research Adviser listed with the Research Opportunity to discuss interests and possible research proposal

Application Preparation & Submission

- Familiarize yourself with the [RAP](#) and [AF STFP](#) webpages for applicants

- Register an online account via [InfoRAP](#)

- Notify letter writers in advance and monitor their submissions

- Work with the Research Adviser to craft a research proposal aligned with lab priorities

- Adhere to the [Applicant Guide](#)

  - Determine required application materials

  - Prepare and submit a competitive, compliant, and complete application by one of the four application deadlines:* February 1, May 1, August 1, or November 1

If a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the deadline is moved to the next business day.

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Application Review Timeline

Proposed Research Adviser

- Reviews candidate's application
- Provides scientific evaluation of the project, its relevance to the scientific interests of the sponsoring organization, and the availability of support facilities
- Indicates willingness to serve as Research Adviser

Laboratory Program Representative

- Endorses application for review

Peer Reviewers (>3)

- Assess application quality, likelihood for success, and contribution of the research to the mission of the sponsoring federal laboratory

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Review Results Timeline

- **Host Agency/Laboratory –** Receives results ~5 weeks after application deadline

- **Applicant –** Receives notification that scores and reviewer feedback are available in InfoRAP ~6 weeks after application deadline

- **Office of Fellowships –** Notifies candidates of application status on a rolling basis and up to a year after the application deadline, as authorized by the host agency/laboratory

InfoRAP Demo

Key Takeaways

- **Doctorate required** before the start of the tenure

- Work closely with a **Research Adviser** to tailor your research to lab goals

- Use **InfoRAP** to register, notify letter writers, and submit application materials

- Highlight your **academic excellence, innovative proposal, and lab alignment** to excel in the review process

- Ensure all materials are submitted **in advance of the application deadline**

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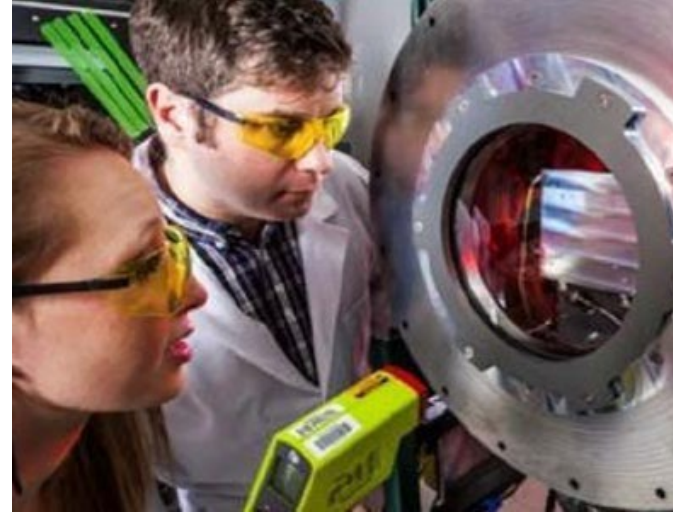
Information/Contact

NRC Research Associateship Programs

Website: https://www.nas.edu/rap

Email: rap@nas.edu

Air Force Science & Technology Fellowship Program

Website: https://www.nas.edu/afstfp

Email: afstfp@nas.edu

Other NASEM Opportunities

https://www.nationalacademies.org/fellowships-and-grants

Q&A

Thank you for joining!
Enter questions in the chat or use the raise hand feature to be called on

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FELLOWSHIP & APPLICATION PROCESS LIMITED SERIES WEBINAR
Eligibility & Benefits Deep Dive

November 18th 2025
2:00 PM ET

Register   nas.edu/rap   rap@nas.edu