



The NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

NSF 11-499



Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

- **The Fellowships support research and training for recent recipients of the doctoral degree**
 - In selected areas supported by BIO
 - With special goals for human resource development in biology
 - Provide active mentoring by sponsoring scientists
 - Granted to individuals, administered by the Fellows
 - Encourage independence at an early stage



Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

- **Eligibility requirements**

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Earn or plan to earn the doctoral degree in a scientific or mathematical field prior to the requested start date and have not accepted an academic appointment.
- Either currently be a graduate student or, at the deadline date, have served in a position requiring the doctoral degree for no more than 12 full time months since earning the degree
- Present a research and training plan that falls within the purview of BIO and includes the required info for the specific competition
- Select both a host institution and sponsoring scientist(s) different from the doctoral degree and current position
- And others....



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Competitive Areas

1. Broadening Participation in Biology
 - Offered since 1990 as NSF Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in biology; support a broad range of BIO programs
2. Intersections of Biology and Mathematical and Physical Sciences
 - Interdisciplinary; innovative; dual mentors
3. National Plant Genome Initiative Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
 - Studies in plant genomics with an emphasis on quantitative genetics, modern breeding approaches, and bioinformatics



Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

- **Applications**
 - Discuss with advisor *early*
 - Applications are submitted directly by applicants to NSF
 - Applications must include sponsoring scientists statements
 - Applicants must affiliate with institutions
- **Estimated Number of Awards**
 - About 15 fellowships per year in each competitive area, contingent upon availability of funds.
- **Anticipated Funding Amount**
 - Competitive Areas 1 and 2: \$5M to \$6M per year
 - Competitive Area 3: up to \$4M year in FY12, FY13, and FY14