

The Life Sciences Research Foundation

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

The LSRF solicits monies from industry, foundations and individuals to support postdoctoral fellowships in the life sciences. Active solicitation of funds continues, for which we need the assistance of all concerned individuals. We recognize that discoveries and the application of innovations in biology for the public's good will depend upon the training and support of the highest quality young scientists in the very best research environments. LSRF awards fellowships across the spectrum of the life sciences: biochemistry; cell, developmental, molecular, plant, structural, organismic population and evolutionary biology; endocrinology; immunology; microbiology; neurobiology; physiology; virology.

In the belief that innovation and discovery occur in direct proportion to quality of training, the Life Sciences Research Foundation administers an international program of postdoctoral fellowships in all areas of the life sciences. Since it was established, in 1981, the Foundation has attracted support from a wide variety of sponsors. An Alumni Directory can be obtained from the foundation's headquarters.

Each sponsor supports one or more designated individuals, chosen by the Foundation's Board on the basis of the merit of the proposed research and the quality of the individual's past performance, as judged by the Foundation's Peer Review Committee. In this way, the Foundation offers sponsors a personal, cost-effective way to support excellence in non-targeted biological research.

A generous gift from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation funded the organizational costs of the Foundation in 1981. Annual financial statements are available from the Foundation's headquarters.

Tax Exemption. Money given to the Foundation is tax deductible. (The Foundation is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.) Designated a Qualified Fund in Code section 41(e)(6)(D), the Foundation can "pass through" to educational and nonprofit institutions funds it receives from corporate sponsors. The Foundation's annual Financial Report informs the sponsor of the amount of money expended on research during that year.

Fellowship Eligibility. Three-year fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis to graduates of medical and graduate schools in the biological sciences holding M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M. or D.D.S. degrees. Awards will be based solely on the quality of the individual applicant's previous accomplishments, and on the merit of the proposal for postdoctoral research. Persons doing a second postdoc are eligible only if they are transferring to a different supervisor's laboratory and embarking on a new project not connected to their previous research. All U.S. citizens are eligible to apply with no geographic restriction on the laboratory of their choice. Foreign applicants will be eligible for study in U.S. laboratories. LSRF fellows must carry out their research at nonprofit institutions. LSRF fellows may change projects, laboratories, and/or institutions during the fellowship as long as the eligibility rules listed here are not violated. A person holding a faculty appointment is not eligible to apply for an LSRF fellowship.

Note: There may be no more than one LSRF fellow in any one laboratory at a time. If a laboratory contains an LSRF fellow, an applicant intending to work in that particular lab would be eligible to apply only during the current fellow's final year. However, multiple applicants may apply from a lab which does not contain an LSRF fellow (but only one fellowship would be awarded). **Please verify this matter with your intended supervisor.**

The fellowship cannot be used to support research that has a patent commitment or involves

any other kind of agreement with a commercial, profit-making company. Any patentable discovery from the individual's research becomes the property of the institution where the research is conducted.

Selection. A panel of biological scientists ([The Peer Review Committee](#)) will judge and select applications once each year. **The deadline for applications is October 1.** Awards will be announced from March to June, for funding beginning August 1st.

Sponsorship. The peer review committee chooses finalists exclusively by the merit of their application. LSRF then works closely with sponsors to find the fellow(s) amongst our finalists who is most relevant to the sponsor's interests. Corporate, foundation or individual sponsors will have their name directly associated with individual recipients whom they sponsor. The fellow will acknowledge this affiliation in all publications. For example: "[Name of fellow] is a [Name of Sponsor] Fellow of LSRF." LSRF encourages close interactions between fellows and sponsors through yearly visits of fellows to sponsors at the sponsor's initiative and through our annual scientific meeting. At this meeting fellows present talks or posters on their research, and there are guest speakers as well.

Annual Meeting. Once each year all current fellows will meet for two days and present their research. The LSRF Board and Staff, the Sponsors, the Peer Review Committee and Guest Scientists are invited to attend the meeting.

In addition, fellows must agree to meet at least once a year with their sponsor. In the case of corporate sponsors, this usually means a visit by the fellow to the company. This visit is initiated by the sponsor.

Stipends. The fellowship award is \$57,000 per year and is meant to be a minigrant. LSRF keeps \$1000 for administrative expenses and passes the rest to the fellow. Effective June 1, 2009, the salary scale begins at \$43,000 for a first-year postdoctoral, \$45,000 for a second year, and \$47,000 thereafter. The fellow, not the advisor, will control expenditure of the remainder. It may be used for fringe benefits (up to \$2,000/year), travel to the host institution, travel to visit the sponsor and to the LSRF annual meeting, research supplies or equipment in support of the fellow's research. **The LSRF does not award an institutional allowance for overhead.**

An escrow fund is available to fellows who can elect to have up to \$5,000 per year withheld from their grant by LSRF. At the end of their fellowship, they will receive the withheld money as a one-time grant, if and when they assume a position at a nonprofit institution in the United States. Fellows who elect to have an escrow account will then be obligated to their sponsor for one more year. This obligation includes the visit to the sponsor and the acknowledgment of sponsorship in publications.

Administration. Policy is set by a Board of biologists chosen for their experience and judgment in science. The Board selects fellows on the basis of recommendations by the Foundation's Peer Review Committee, the members of which represent a broad spectrum of biological fields and research institutions. All scientists associated with the Foundation—officers, Board members, and Peer Review Committee members—serve without pay.

LSRF does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race or nationality.

Application Instructions

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: October 1

**DEADLINE FOR SUPERVISOR AND REFERENCE LETTERS: NOVEMBER 1
(8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time for both deadlines)**

The application will consist of the items listed below – all of which will be uploaded online as either Microsoft Word or PDF files. LSRF recommends that you use the Explorer browser for uploading. Reference letters will also be submitted online. Email messages will be sent to your supervisor and references by LSRF instructing them how to attach files to your application. LSRF DOES NOT ACCEPT REFERENCE LETTERS ON PAPER.

You may begin your application even if your references have not yet written their recommendations, but applicants will not be able to upload any additional material after the deadline of October 1, so be sure all requirements of your application are complete (except for reference and supervisor's letters) by the deadline. THE APPLICANT CANNOT ACCESS HER/HIS FILES FOR EDITING OR ADDING MATERIAL AFTER OCTOBER 1. THIS ALSO MEANS YOU CANNOT ADD/CHANGE THE NAME OF A REFEREE AFTER OCTOBER 1. THE NAME (WITH CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES) MUST BE LISTED BY OCTOBER 1.

ABSTRACT of the proposal in 200 words or less. Use 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Arial as the minimum font size for the text. You will cut and paste your Word text and upload it into the required text box. If your abstract does not fit into the text box, you must shorten it.

CURRICULUM VITAE of the applicant in pdf format (3-page maximum). NIH biosketch format is preferred but not required (no Personal Statement necessary). Note: pdf files upload best using Explorer or Safari browsers. If you have a problem uploading the file, try switching the browser.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL has a size limitation equal to 5 single-spaced pages with one-half inch (0.5) margins on all four sides of the paper. Use 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Arial as the minimum font size for the text of the proposal. You may use 10-point Times New Roman or 9-point Arial font type for the figure legends, tables and reference list. Upload this file in pdf format. If you have a problem uploading the file, try switching the browser. The style/presentation of the proposal is determined by the applicant, not LSRF. Be concise. Experts in the field review proposals; extensive background information is not necessary. THE FIVE-PAGE MAXIMUM INCLUDES FIGURES, TABLES AND REFERENCE LIST.

LETTER FROM SUPERVISOR acknowledging acceptance of the applicant and the willingness of the institution to administer the award. The letter should indicate the role expected of the candidate in the broad framework of the supervisor's research, noting the size of the research group and the degree of independence the candidate will have. Supervisor's letter will be uploaded online as simple text. Scanned letters with signatures in pdf form are not required and cannot be uploaded in that form. THE SUPERVISOR MAY NOT SERVE AS ONE OF THE THREE REFERENCES.

Note to applicants who have joint supervisors: List only one name in supervisor slot. LSRF can accept only one supervisor's letter. If you wish to inform LSRF of joint supervisors, have them both state their role in a single letter and then they can both list their names at the end of the letter.

THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE from associates who can critically appraise the applicant's qualifications. One letter should be from the applicant's thesis advisor (if applicable – this does not apply to M.D. applicants). You may still apply if you do not submit your thesis advisor's letter, but your file will not be as strong. Reference letters will be uploaded online as simple text. Scanned letters with signatures in pdf form are not required and cannot be uploaded in that form. ALL SUPERVISORS AND REFERENCES WILL BE SENT AN EMAIL FROM LSRF WITH A LINK FOR SUBMITTING THEIR LETTERS ONLINE AND INFORMING THEM THAT THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1. THIS EMAIL IS SENT TO THEM AT THE TIME YOU LIST THEM IN YOUR APPLICATION.

Note: All applications must have a total of 4 letters of support (1 supervisor and 3 references). If you fail to list a total of 4, your application will not be eligible for review.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS AND TIPS

Please be sure to read the following before you begin your application.

Make sure all email addresses listed (yours, your supervisor, your references) are correct and current. Proofread all typing after inserting these into the application. If the email address is not correct your supervisor and references will not receive the email from LSRF giving them instructions for uploading their letters. AN INCORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS THE NUMBER ONE MISTAKE THAT APPLICANTS MAKE.

Internet Explorer and Safari browsers work best for uploading your files. If you have a problem uploading a file, try switching to a different web browser.

U.S. citizens are eligible to work in any geographic location while holding an LSRF fellowship. Non-U.S. citizens must work in a U.S. laboratory to be eligible for an LSRF fellowship.

Individuals who have held a PhD or MD degree for more than 5 years at the time of application are not eligible for an LSRF fellowship.

LSRF does not require letters from your institution's grants office at the time of application. We require only the name and email address of a financial officer at your institution. If and when an applicant is chosen for a fellowship, both you and the institution will be contacted.

LSRF does not require a budget.

LSRF does not require college transcripts, animal certification documents or any type of visa documents at the time of application.

LSRF will send a confirmation email after you submit an application. You may login at any time to see the status of your application. This allows you to check on the status of your reference letters.

LSRF must be notified if you accept another fellowship at any time during the application and review process (October 1 through June 1). An email to the Princeton office will suffice.

LSRF receives more than 900 applications per year and awards anywhere from 12 - 20 fellowships per year. The number of fellowships awarded depends entirely on our fundraising efforts that year. The LSRF does not have an endowment.

You can review or modify your application at any time up to the deadline date mentioned above.

Login

Questions and inquiries pertaining to the submission of applications should be sent to:

Susan DiRenzo, Assistant Director
Email : sdirenzo@princeton.edu