

## FY2017 AFRI ELI Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NIFA Fellowships Program?

- The NIFA Fellowships Program provides fellowships to outstanding pre- and postdoctoral students in the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences.

What is the focus of the Program?

- Prepare the next generation of scientists through fellowships, including doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships.
- Focuses on developing technical and functional competence for predoctoral students; and the research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students.

What Project Types are available?

- Research
- Education
- Extension
- Integrated
- Applicants must propose one of the AFRI project types specified within the relevant program area description beginning in Part II, C of the RFA. Only project types specifically solicited under each program area or program area priority described in Part II, C of the RFA will be considered for review. A detailed description of the project types available across AFRI is located at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/AFRI-Project-Types.pdf>

What are the general components of the application?

- Focused research, education, and/or extension objectives that are aligned with one of the six AFRI Farm Bill priorities;
- Well-developed academic experiences and global competencies;
- Productive and interactive mentoring; and
- Appropriate and applicable training activities.

What are the six Farm Bill priority areas?

- Plant health and production and plant products;
- Animal health and production and animal products;
- Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment;
- Agriculture systems and technology; and
- Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Questions about citizenship eligibility.

- As per the FY 2017 AFRI ELI RFA, the individual (i.e., student) seeking support via the application (whether as the applicant or through the mentor institution) must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States.

Are indirect costs allowed?

- No. Institutional allowance, in lieu of indirect costs, not to exceed \$3,000 per year, may be requested.

Do I have to submit a Letter of Intent?

- No. The AFRI ELI predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships program is not requesting letters of intent.

When are the applications due?

- June 21, 2017 (5:00 p.m. ET)

How much time must I dedicate to the project?

- At the time of the award, Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a fulltime basis (i.e. 100% effort), as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.

If I receive an award, when can I expect to start?

- The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law.

Where can I obtain more information?

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources>

### Predocctoral Students

What are the eligibility requirements?

- The individual must have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by June 21, 2017 (as per CFR 3430.303), and provide documentation from the graduate advisor or the institution by the application deadline.

How much money is available and for how long?

- Applications must not exceed \$95,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.

### Postdoctoral Students

What are the eligibility requirements?

- All doctoral degree requirements must be satisfied no earlier than January 1, 2014 and no later than March 21, 2018 (as per CFR 3430.303), and provide documentation from the graduate advisor/graduate committee or the institution by the application deadline.

How much money is available and for how long?

- Applications must not exceed \$165,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.