

AFRI NIFA Fellowships Grant  
Program FY 2013  
Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the Fellowships grant program?
  - The NIFA Fellowships Grant Program is focused on developing technical and functional competence for predoctoral students and the research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students in the agriculture, forestry, and food sciences. Proposals should: a) align with NIFA's challenge and/or foundational program areas; b) demonstrate relevance to American agriculture; and c) involve well-developed and highly interactive mentoring and training activities.
  
- What are the Foundational Areas?
  - Plant health and production and plant products;
  - Animal health and production and animal products;
  - Food safety, nutrition, and health;
  - Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
  - Agriculture systems and technology; and
  - Agriculture economics and rural communities.
  
- What are the Challenge Areas?
  - Agricultural and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change;
  - Childhood Obesity Prevention;
  - Food Safety;
  - Food Security; and
  - Sustainable Bioenergy.
  
- Predoctoral Students
  - What are the eligibility requirements?
    - The individual must have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by March 7, 2013, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor or the institution by the application deadline. **The intent of the NIFA Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program is to support current doctoral students who are at the stage of conducting dissertation research, ultimately leading to completion of the dissertation and respective terminal degree.**
    - 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.
  - How much money is available and for how long?
    - Predoctoral Fellowship applications must not exceed \$79,000 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, 2010 and no later than December 7, 2013, and provide documentation from the graduate advisor/graduate committee or the institution by the application deadline.
    - 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
  - How much money is available and for how long?
    - Postdoctoral Fellowship applications must not exceed \$150,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- Are indirect costs allowed?
  - No. Institutional allowance, in lieu of indirect costs, not to exceed \$2,400 per year, may be requested.
- When are the Letters of Intent due?
  - January 3, 2013 (5:00 p.m., ET)
- Must I submit a Letter of Intent?
  - Yes.
- When are the applications due?
  - March 7, 2013 (5:00 p.m., ET)
- How much time must I dedicate to the project?
  - It is expected that at the time of the award, Fellows are required to carry out their projects and training on a full-time basis, normally defined as 40 hours per week or as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.
- Where can I obtain more information?
  - The RFA is available at [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/13\\_afri\\_fellow.pdf](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/13_afri_fellow.pdf).

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