

FY 2019 and FY 2020 AFRI EWD Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships
Frequently Asked Questions

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Note: this document references the NIFA AFRI EWD Request for Applications (RFA) for two funding cycles (FY 2019 and FY 2020). Applicants considering applying to the second year should check the [AFRI RFA webpage](#) and www.grants.gov after February 6, 2020 for the FY 2020 for any programmatic changes as well as other application information.

General Questions

What is the NIFA Fellowships Program?

The NIFA Fellowships Program provides fellowships to outstanding predoctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars 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 post-doctoral fellowships.
- Focuses on developing technical and functional competence for predoctoral students; and the research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral scholars.

What Project Types are available?

There are four project types available across the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI):

- Single-function Research Projects,
- Single-function Education Projects,
- Single-function Extension Projects, and
- Integrated Projects which include at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension)

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 on the website.

What are the general components of an 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 2019 AFRI EWD 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 EWD predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships program is not requesting letters of intent.

When are the applications due?

- Fiscal Year 2019 competition: Thursday, July 18, 2019 (5:00 p.m. EDT)
- Fiscal Year 2020 competition: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (5:00 p.m. EDT)

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?

Please visit the [AFRI Education and Workforce Development](#) page for the Request for Applications and other information.

Predocctoral Students

What are the eligibility requirements?

The individual Predocctoral Project Director (PD) must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and, as per CFR 3430.303, have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by:

- Fiscal Year 2019 competition: July 18, 2019
- Fiscal Year 2020 competition: June 16, 2020

How much money is available and for how long?

Applications must not exceed \$180,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 3 years.

Postdoctoral Students

What are the eligibility requirements?

The individual Postdoctoral Project Director (PD) must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and, as per CFR 3430.303, and all doctoral degree requirements must be satisfied by:

- Fiscal Year 2019 competition: no earlier than January 1, 2016, and no later than April 18, 2020
- Fiscal Year 2020 competition: no earlier than January 1, 2017, and no later than March 16, 2021

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.