

Instructions for submission of application packets for the NSTP

Each student application should be submitted to the CVM Office of Research by October 25th, 2019 and include :

- A completed NSTP application form (be sure to include estimated graduation date)
- Current CV
- Letter of interest written by the student (this should address applicant's suitability for the APHIS mission specifically)
- 3 Letters of recommendation

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding the application process.

NSTP@usda.gov

Alexa Bracht- NSTP Coordinator

Dr. Jamie Barnabei- NSTP Program Manager

Dr. Kimberly Dodd- NSTP Director



USDA APHIS NBAF Scientist Training Program

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Degree program: _____

Graduate program and mentor: _____

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES NO Expected graduation date: _____

References

Please list three professional references.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to employment, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my release.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

USDA APHIS NBAF SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The purpose of the USDA APHIS NBAF Scientist Training Program is to build the necessary technical and subject matter expertise to support stand-up of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at the new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, KS. In addition to serving as an international reference laboratory for foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) and as a national reference laboratory for other foreign animal diseases such as classical swine fever and African swine fever viruses, at NBAF, FADDL's mission will expand to including emerging and zoonotic diseases, including BSL-4 pathogens. To minimize the SME gap and identify highly qualified candidates to fill key roles in the new NBAF facility, APHIS has developed a graduate training program, the APHIS NBAF Scientist Training Program (NSTP). NSTP fellows will receive full tuition and supplementary support to complete a MS, PhD or DVM/PhD program in target laboratory-based fields of study: microbiology, virology, molecular biology, diagnostics, bioinformatics, etc.

AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIP TRAINING

APHIS NSTP fellows will receive funding to cover the following for a maximum of 5 years:

- Tuition and fees
- Stipend (Up to \$50,000 annually) and health benefits
- Materials and supplies (\$20,000 annually)
- Travel (\$5,000 annually)
- Publication costs (\$1,000 annually)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful candidates must:

- Be a US citizen
- Meet all requirements of the University graduate program and have been accepted into an approved graduate training program (MS, PhD, DVM/PhD) at time of application to NSTP.
- At time of enrollment, must have three or less years remaining in program (MS); 4 years or less (PhD); 5 years or less (DVM/PhD).
- Identify a faculty mentor supportive of enrollment in NSTP.
- Exhibit a strong interest in emerging, zoonotic and/or foreign animal diseases.
- Demonstrate a desire to work at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, KS, after degree completion.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

NSTP fellows must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA to ensure continued funding.
- Support development of NBAF standard operation procedures and work instructions.
- Participate in meetings with the NSTP advisory committee and provide biannual process reports.
- Continuation of funding is dependent on satisfactory progress through program.
- Upon successful completion of program, fellows will be guaranteed a federal position at target grade and area of expertise.

SERVICE COMMITMENT

All NSTP fellows must fulfill service commitment in federal position at NBAF and or Plum Island at completion of the program.

- Length of commitment is determined by the number of years of funding received:
 - o 4 years of service at target position for 2 years of funding; 5 years for 3 years; 6 years for 4 years; 7 years for 5 years. Failure to complete service commitment will require fellow to repay funding (prorated) to APHIS NSTP program.

Rubric for University use in APHIS NSTP Fellow Selection

Applicant Name: _____

Degree Program*/ Estimated Graduation Date: _____

**Please note that applicants and evaluations should be grouped by degree program. In other words, a PhD student would not be ranked against an MS student, but may be evaluated with respect to other PhD candidates.*

Select the numeric rating that best fits your assessment of the applicant in relation to his or her peers.

Evaluation Criteria	1 Excellent	2 Good	3 Average	4 Poor	5 None	Do not know
Previous laboratory training and experience relevant to the APHIS-NBAF mission (not necessarily FAD-specific)						
Academic performance						
Interpersonal Skills						
Ability to work within a team						
Critical thinking / Problem-solving skills						
Dedication to fulfilling the required service commitment at FADDL/NBAF						
Community involvement ("Civic-mindedness")						
Overall assessment of applicant						

What are the strengths and weaknesses this applicant would bring to a high-paced, laboratory work environment?

What is your assessment of the applicant's career plans and logistics with respect to the APHIS NBAF mission?

For any excellent rating ("1"), please provide specific examples in support of the applicant to justify your selection of excellent for this criterion.

RANK # _____

APHIS NBAF Scientist Training Program Office

Instructions for Submission of NSTP Application Packets

Each student application should include:

- A completed NSTP application form (be sure to include estimated graduation date)
- Current CV
- Letter of interest written by the student (this should address applicant's suitability for the APHIS mission specifically)
- 3 Letters of recommendation
- Completed rubric evaluation form completed by university staff. ***Please note the ranking designation in the bottom right corner.** We are asking the universities to rank their student submissions in an effort to assist the NSTP office with overall application evaluations.

The deadline for application submissions for the spring semester is November 1, 2019. Submissions may be submitted electronically to NSTP@usda.gov. Please list your name, university and total # of students applying in your subject line.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding the application process.

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