**U.S. - Egypt Joint Board on**

**Scientific and Technological Cooperation**

Conditions for Undertaking and Financing

Joint Science and Technology Activities

**Program Announcement**

FOR

**JUNIOR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT**

**VISIT GRANTS**

Deadline for Submission

of Application:

**September 27, 2016**

**U.S. - Egypt Joint Board • 2016**

[**www.stdf.org.eg**](http://www.stdf.org.eg)

[**http://www.nationalacademies.org/egypt**](http://www.nationalacademies.org/egypt)

**U.S. - Egypt Joint Science & Technology Board**

**Junior Scientist Development Visits**

**General Information**

The Junior Scientist Development Visits program provides grants for short-term (up to 9 months) non-academic training visits to U.S. institutions for Egyptian researchers.

**Objectives**

To provide high quality training and research opportunities resulting in knowledge and skills that will:

1. Assist eligible Egyptian junior scientists in broadening their experience and training to advance their performance at their home institutions;
2. Strengthen and enhance mutually beneficial linkages between Egyptian and U.S. counterpart institutions, assisting in development of institutional capacity; and
3. Provide opportunities to access expertise and study areas normally unavailable to the Egyptian junior researchers.

**Research Areas**

The Joint Board will consider applications from the following four main areas, with priority sub-areas specified in each:

* **Agriculture:** 
  + Climate change and sustainable crop/livestock production
  + Emerging livestock diseases
  + Food processing and safety
* **Energy:**
  + Advances in energy storage systems
  + New trends in renewable energy
* **Health:** 
  + Cancer
  + Immunology
  + Infectious Diseases
  + Neuroscience
  + Responsible Conduct of Research
  + Stem cells
* **Water:**
  + Advances in desalination technology
  + Improved efficiency for current water/agricultural practices

All proposals must be within one of the four main areas to be considered for funding. Applicants are urged to clarify the relevance of their proposals with respect to the above main and priority sub priority-areas. Funding will be allocated first to meritorious proposals within the priority sub-areas and to “nexus proposals” (those that demonstrate a link between two or more of the four main priority areas, described in more detail below). If an applicant proposes a project within the main areas, but outside the sub-areas or nexus, clear justification should be provided for why the proposal should be considered.

“Nexus” proposals: Nexus proposals must explain how the proposed research will make direct and substantive scientific advances in each of the selected priority areas. Nexus proposals “must document that the proposed research is truly interdisciplinary, that the respective components are fully integrated and necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project, and that the research team contains sufficient expertise to carry out all dimensions of the research plan. Plans for integration of the respective research components must be fully outlined in the proposal.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

**CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION**

* The applicant must apply within 10 years after receiving his/her PhD.
* The proposed visit is to last no longer than nine months.
* Working proficiency in English is required.
* A complete application package must include the following:

1) Completed application form;

2) Letter of recommendation: One signed letter of approval from the Head of applicant's

home institution;

3) Signed Conditions of Visit form;

4) Budget plan for the visit, including travel and per diem;

5) Signed letter of agreement from the proposed U.S. host institution endorsing the applicant, the proposed visit plan, and the proposed budget;

6) A copy of the PhD degree.

* The proposed budget should include travel and per diem costs, as well as costs for health insurance coverage which must be obtained by the visiting researcher. Applicants should check with their host institution about health insurance coverage and cost. A rough estimate of this cost is $150/month, but this may vary.
* The Applicant must agree to and sign the Conditions of Visit form, which includes a statement of intent to return to their home institute following the completion of the visit.

**Applications must include a detailed description of the proposed program for the visit.**

Selection will be made on the basis of candidate qualifications, submitted recommendations, specific training and/or research needs, and how the knowledge gained from the visit will be used when the applicant returns to the home institute.

All costs for Egyptian researchers traveling to U.S. host institutions will be covered by grants made in Egypt. A final report, including a summary stating the achievements of the visit, and how the visit may help improve future scientific cooperation between Egypt and the U.S. in the particular research area, should be submitted to the program administrators within 30 days of the return to the home institution.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

**Applicants must adhere to the following application submission procedures:**

All applications must be submitted to the application website. Please note that applications submitted as hard copies or sent via email will not be considered.

**The application deadline is 11:59 pm Cairo, Egypt time, September 27, 2016.**

The final approval of candidates will be made by the Joint Board, on the basis of candidate qualifications, submitted recommendation letter, specific research and/or training needs, and how the knowledge gained during the visit will be used by the candidate upon his or her return to the home institution.

**Award Announcement** – It is expected that STDF will notify the funded applicants of final decisions, following Joint Board approval, by Summer 2017.

Primary contacts for program inquiries are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| U.S. Point of Contact  Ms. Katherine Matheson  Program Officer  The National Academy of Sciences  500 Fifth St. NW  Washington, D.C. 20001  Tel: +1-202-334-2626  Email: [usegyptjointfund@nas.edu](mailto:usegyptjointfund@nas.edu) | Egypt Point of Contact  Ms. Ghada Ghaleb  Operations Officer  Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF)  101 Kasr El Aini St., 2nd floor  Cairo, Egypt  Tel: +20 (2) 27925081  E-mail: [ghada.ghaleb@stdf.org.eg](mailto:ghada.ghaleb@stdf.org.eg) |

**U.S. - EGYPT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY JOINT FUND PROGRAM**

**JUNIOR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT VISITS**

**2016 APPLICATION FORM**

**(Note: Please TYPE)**

**Application and Attachments must be in English**

**I. Personal Information**

Name:

Family Name First Middle

Date of Birth: Place of Birth:

Home Address:

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(Street) (Home Telephone)

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(Mobile Telephone)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Town or City/Country) (Email Address)

**II. Academic Education and Training Experience**

**A) Academic**

**Name of Dates Degree Obtained**

**Institution Field of Study Attended & Date Completed**

Field of Specialization:

Title of Ph.D. Thesis:

**B) Training (list additional training in home country)**

Field of Study Dates Language/Place of Instruction

**C) Additional Training in Other Countries**

Field of Study Dates Language/Place of Instruction

Awards, Honors, Scholarships Received, Publications, Professional Memberships:

**III. Employment**

**A) Current Employment**

**from: / / to:** present

**(Title or Position)**

**(Organization/Company)**

**(# Street)** **(Employer’s Email)**

**(Town or City)** **(Employer’s Telephone)**

Description of your place of employment and your duties and responsibilities. Use additional pages as necessary.

**B) Previous Employment (if at current position less than 2 years)**

**from: / / to:**

**(Title or Position)**

**(Organization/Company)**

**(# Street)** **(Employer’s Email)**

**(Town or City)** **(Employer’s Telephone)**

Description of your place of employment and your duties and responsibilities (previous employment). Use additional pages as necessary.

**IV. Languages**

Please indicate English capabilities in first line, additional languages on remaining lines.

Can Converse Can Read Can Write

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Fluently | Passably | Fluently | Passably | Fluently | Passably |
| English |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**V. Proposed Program**

Please mark at least one applicable field and at least one applicable priority sub-field for your project. “Nexus” proposals should mark at least two of the four fields. If your sub-field is not listed, mark “Other sub-field” and one applicable field. Remember to provide justification for your proposal’s consideration if “Other sub-field” is marked.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Fields** |  | **Priority Sub-Fields** |
|  | Agriculture |  |  |
|  |  |  | Climate change and sustainable crop/livestock production |
|  |  |  | Emerging livestock diseases |
|  |  |  | Food processing and food safety |
|  | Health |  |  |
|  |  |  | Cancer |
|  |  |  | Immunology |
|  |  |  | Infectious Diseases |
|  |  |  | Neuroscience |
|  |  |  | Responsible Conduct of Research |
|  |  |  | Stem cells |
|  | Energy |  |  |
|  |  |  | Advances in energy storage systems |
|  |  |  | New trends in renewable energy |
|  | Water |  |  |
|  |  |  | Advances in desalination technology |
|  |  |  | Improved efficiency for current water/agricultural practices |
|  | Other sub-field (within one of the four areas of Agriculture, Health, Energy or Water, but not listed above) | | |

If you marked “Other sub-field,” please provide justification why your proposal should be considered:

1. Title of Proposed Work:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Please describe your program of work for the proposed visit including proposed dates of visit:

1. Proposed Host Institution:

1. Contact Person at Host Institution:

**VI. Benefits of Proposed Visit**

How will experiences gained during your visit benefit you and your home institution when you return?

**VII. Attachments**

Please include with your application the following attachments as Appendices:

Appendix I Supervisor's Recommendation for Applicant's Proposed Visit

Appendix II Signed Conditions of Visit form

Appendix III Signed Letter from the Proposed Host Institution for the proposed visit, agreeing to the program plan of the specific exchange visitor

Appendix IV Budget Plan for Proposed Visit, including travel and per diem

Appendix V Copy of Ph.D. Diploma

Appendix VI List of Recent Publications (max. 2 pages)

I certify that the information given in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge

Signature Date

**APPENDIX I**

**Supervisor's Recommendation for Applicant's Proposed Visit**

Name of Participant:

Applicants: Please have your supervisor complete the following questions.

A) What do you want the applicant to learn during the proposed visit?

B) How will the applicant's visit be useful for the organization when he/she returns?

C) Please comment on the applicant's suitability to carry out the proposed visit.

Signature

Title

Date

**Appendix II**

**Conditions of Visit**

Name of Participant:

If I am accepted to receive a grant for a scientific visit under the U.S – Egypt Science & Technology Joint Fund Program, I agree to adhere to my arranged program, to devote my time and attention to my research and/or practical training, and to conform to Program regulations and procedures for the duration of the visit. I will not seek extension of the period of my visit but will return to my country without delay upon completion of my visit under this program. I also agree to conform to all rules and policies of the host institution and laws of the host country and agree at all times to conduct myself and my research in a professional and ethical manner.

Furthermore, I thoroughly understand the following policies of the Junior Scientist Development Visit Grants Program:

I. Dependents: The Program strongly discourages family members from accompanying or joining a participant during the visit. The Program is not responsible in any way for family members.

II. Attendance of Participants at Conferences and Meetings: While at the Host Institution, attendance of participants at national or international conferences, conventions or meetings of professional, trade, or other associations will not be supported by the program funds, unless such attendance is part of the approved program.

III. Conditions for Termination of the Visit: The Joint Board reserves the right to terminate the visit of those participants who:

1. Change the program of the visit without authorization from the Joint Board or their representatives.
2. Fail to show sufficient interest in or to effectively pursue their program during the visit.
3. Conduct themselves in a manner prejudicial to the program or to the laws of the United States or Egypt.
4. Have in any way falsified information on the application and/or supporting documents.
5. The Host Institution determines that continuation of the visit is not in the interest of the Host Institution.

IV. Financial Support: The applicant is aware that the financial support provided by the program covers fees, emergency medical insurance, lodging and food only. The daily maintenance allowance is adequate for modest lodging and food. The Joint Board does not fund any expenses related to family members accompanying the participant.

V. Health Insurance: Participants must have health insurance coverage during their exchange visit period. Egyptians traveling to the U.S. must have a minimum level of health insurance coverage. This can vary, depending on the type of visa the exchange visitor obtains, but as an example, for a J-1 visa to the U.S., the following is required:

* Medical benefits of at least $100,000 per accident or illness
* Repatriation of remains in the amount of $25,000
* Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of $50,000
* A deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness.

If the exchange visitor does not have health insurance coverage through their home institution, check with the host institution about short-term medical insurance coverage for foreign visitors. There are also private policies in the U.S. that meet the above requirements. Although information can be provided to assist the exchange visitor to choose health coverage, the Joint Board does not endorse any particular insurance company, nor will it be responsible for costs arising from illness or accident.

VI. Debts and Obligations: The participant will be responsible for all debts and financial obligations incurred while in the United States.

The Participant releases the host institution from any liabilities that may arise out of or in connection with Participant's visit.

Rights to Intellectual Property, Patents or Copyrights created during Participant's visit at Host Institution shall be determined in accordance with the policies of the host institution. Unless superseded by statute, treaty or prior agreement, the Host Institution shall have the right to take the entire right, title and interest in the United States of intellectual property developed by Participant during Participant's visit.

Signature below indicates agreement to and understanding of the above conditions.

Applicant's Signature Date

**Appendix III**

**Signed Letter from the Proposed Host Institution**

Name of Participant:

**Appendix IV**

**Budget Plan for Proposed Visit**

Name of Participant:

Duration of Proposed Visit:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Note**: List all amounts in U.S. dollar equivalents only. | **Total**  U.S. $  (up to $30,000) | | |
| 1. International Airfare | |  |
| 2. Domestic Travel (within the U.S. if part of the visit plan) | |  |
| 3. Lodging and Living Expenses | |  |
| 4. Medical Insurance | |  |
| 5. Materials and Supplies | |  |
| 6. Books/Journals | |  |
| 7. Conferences (fees) | |  |
| 8. Visa Fees/Related Expenses | |  |
| **Total** |  | | |

**Important Note:**

The budget will be calculated as $3000 for airfare and $2500 for lodging and living expenses. For example, an applicant who will be traveling for only 3 months will receive $3000 for airfare and a total of $7,500 for lodging and living expenses for the duration of the 3 months.

**Appendix V**

**Copy of Ph.D. Diploma**

**Appendix VI**

**List of Recent Publications (Maximum 2 Pages)**

1. From the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)’s “Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS)” 2016 Program Solicitation, NSF 16-524. Available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16524/nsf16524.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)