

APPLICATIONS AND TIMELINE

Deadlines and detailed application instructions are available on the JSF website: www.nas.edu/jsf.

The following general timeline applies:

Early August

Competition opens

Late October

Application deadline

Early December

Interviews and placement of finalists begins

Mid-August

Jefferson Science Fellows entry on duty
(pending clearance investigation outcome)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Fellowships Office

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Washington, DC

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The National Academies of
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www.national-academies.org

"When I contemplate the immense advances in science and discoveries in the arts which have been made within the period of my life, I look forward with confidence to equal advances by the present generation, and have no doubt they will consequently be as much wiser than we have been as we than our fathers were . . ."

—THOMAS JEFFERSON, MARCH 3, 1818

JEFFERSON SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS



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INTRODUCTION

The contribution of state-of-the-art science, technology, engineering, and medicine to the formulation and implementation of U.S. government policy and international development activities has been recognized throughout the second half of the 20th-century as a critical element in reaching sound, comprehensive conclusions that reflect “good governance.” Recognizing this need, on October 8, 2003, the Secretary of State announced the Jefferson Science Fellows (JSF) program. The JSF program at the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) serves as an innovative model for engaging the American academic science, engineering, and medical communities in U.S. foreign policy and international development.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine administers the JSF program. The JSF is open to tenured, or similarly ranked, faculty from U.S. institutions of higher learning who are U.S. citizens. Jefferson Science Fellows spend one year on assignment at the U.S. Department of State or USAID contributing to the work of foreign policy or international development issues. Assignments are tailored to the needs of the hosting office, while taking into account the Fellows’ interests and areas of expertise. Following the fellowship year, Fellows will return to their academic career but remain available to the U.S. government as experienced consultants for short-term projects.

TERMS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Since the JSF program is a collaborative effort between the U.S. academic community, the U.S. Department of State, and USAID, financial and institutional support for the program is shared among these partners. During the one-year fellowship the salary and benefits of the Fellow will be paid by the academic institution where the appointment is held, and the academic position of the Fellow, together with all the rights and privileges associated with that position, will be maintained. The Fellow receives

a stipend or per diem allowance of approximately \$50,000 to cover local living expenses and a \$10,000 travel budget for fellowship-related travel. Additional travel support may also be provided by the Fellow’s office or bureau.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

A JSF MOU must be executed between the participating academic institution where the applicant holds a tenured or similarly ranked position and the National Academies. More than 180 institutions have executed an MOU since the program’s inception. To determine if your institution currently holds an MOU with the National Academies or to initiate a new MOU, contact jsf@nas.edu or call 202-334-3478.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

A panel selected by the National Academies conducts a review of all application packages and selects a group of finalists. Finalists will be invited to Washington for interviews and placement in offices or bureaus at the U.S. Department of State and USAID.

Eligible applicants will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Stature, recognition, and experience in the national and international scientific, technical, engineering, or medical communities;
- Ability to rapidly and accurately understand scientific advancements both within and outside his or her discipline area and to effectively integrate this knowledge into U.S. Department of State and USAID policy discussions;
- Ability to identify and articulate science and technology to the non-specialist/general public;
- Benefit of the fellowship to the applicant and the applicant’s academic institution; and
- Related experience which may positively influence the success of the applicant in this fellowship.

Individuals offered a Jefferson Science Fellowship must successfully receive and maintain a security clearance required by the position.