



Directorate for Biological Sciences Virtual Office Hour

Welcome! We will begin the Virtual Office Hour soon.
Please submit questions in the Zoom Q&A box.



Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) Welcome!

Program Directors in attendance today:

- Melissa Pilgrim (Postdoctoral Research in Biology Fellowship Program)
- Amanda Simcox (Postdoctoral Research in Biology Fellowship Program)
- Anna Allen
- Gordon Burleigh
- Diana Chu

Administrative Support & Technical Assistance:

- Jennifer Viscosky, Pauline Meng



BIO Virtual Office Hour

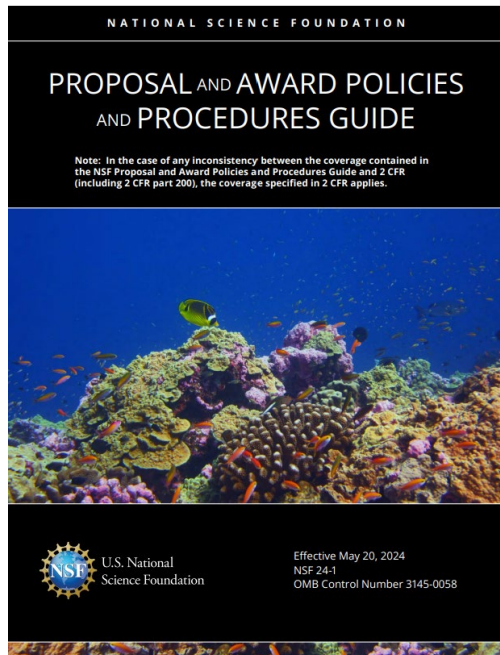
Today's Topics

- Updates and Reminders
- Recent Solicitations
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology
- Q&A with Program Directors



Reminders: General

Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)



- Current version is NSF 24-1
- Latest version can always be found at: https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24_1.pdf

Implementation of Executive Orders

- Updates on NSF Priorities can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities>
- Updates on NSF's Implementation of Executive Orders can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/executive-orders>



Reminders: Solicitations

DBI: Infrastructure Innovation ([NSF 23-578](#))

DBI: Infrastructure Capacity ([NSF 23-580](#))

DEB: Core solicitation ([NSF 24-543](#))

IOS: Core solicitation ([NSF 24-546](#))

IOS: Plant Biotic Interactions ([NSF 20-576](#))

IOS: Plant Genome Research Program ([NSF 24-547](#))

MCB: Core solicitation ([NSF 24-539](#))

Be sure you refer to the most up to date PAPPG and most recent solicitation.



BIO Reorganization – Three Thematic Areas



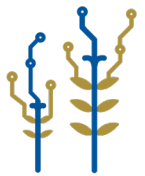
Foundations of Life: BIO-FL@nsf.gov

Exploring natural or synthetic molecules, cells and physiology that build living things



Living Systems: BIO-LS@nsf.gov

Understanding how species evolve, interact, and shape Earth's ecosystems



Bioinnovation & Infrastructure: BIO-BI@nsf.gov

Investigating the functional genomic complexity of life and developing the tools, data, and technologies to drive biological discovery



Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

Application Deadline: September 29, 2026

Fellowship Start Dates: June 1, 2027 – September 1, 2028



Overview of the PRFB Program

- Supports **independent research** and **professional training** of recent recipients of doctorates
- Fosters **human resource development** in biology
- Proposals must address **Intellectual Merit, Broader Impacts, and Solicitation Specific Requirements**
- Fellowship awards are made to **individuals**
 - Awards made directly to PIs (Fellows)
 - Fellows are the “institution” and administer their own awards



Award information

- Duration of fellowship:
 - 2 years
 - Funds released annually
- Total Award: \$220,000
 - Annual Stipend (salary): \$85,000
 - Annual Research allowance \$25,000
 - Project costs: e.g., research, training, travel
 - Fringe benefits: e.g., health insurance, retirement



Program Eligibility

- Must be US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents at time of submission
- Graduate students, and beginning postdocs with a **maximum of 15 months** tenure in a position requiring a doctoral degree **at the program deadline**
- Must have a doctorate in an appropriate field **before starting** the fellowship



Important Considerations

- Research plan should **differ from your Ph.D. work**
 - You will provide an abstract of your dissertation
- Research should be largely **independent**
 - Distinct from that of your sponsoring scientist(s)
 - You should be able to take the work with you when you complete the fellowship
- Fellowship should provide a **significant opportunity for growth**
 - You must make convincing case that sponsor choice and host institution are best for your professional growth
- You may select **international** host institutions and sponsor(s)



Research Focus

Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Biological Sciences to Strengthen and Safeguard Biotechnology Innovations.

- Support research applying AI to biological systems by leveraging existing biological data sets and infrastructure
- Project description must make clear how working at the intersection of AI and biological science advances knowledge and benefits society
 - Address NSF priorities in Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology
 - <https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/biotechnology>
 - <https://www.nsf.gov/impacts/ai>



Research Scope

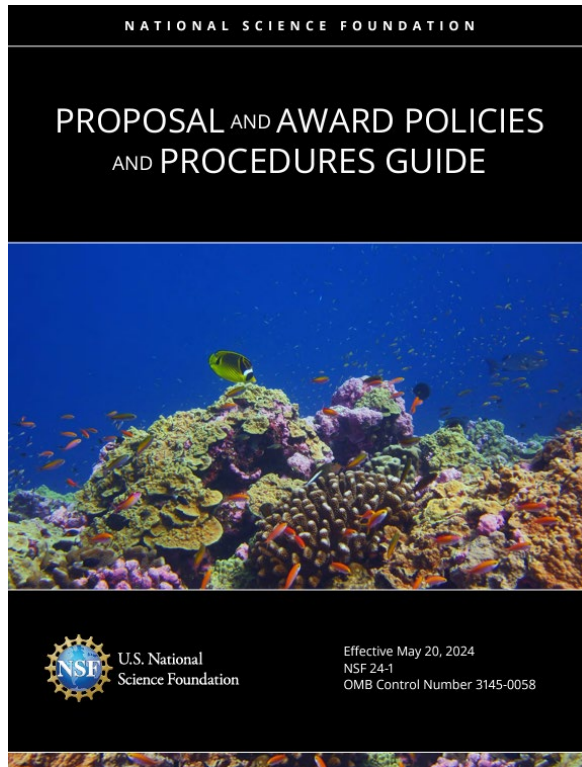
- Basic biology research within purview of NSF-BIO (<http://www.nsf.gov/bio>) and aligned with the research focus as detailed in the solicitation
- Research may have broader impacts related to medicine and human health; however, proposals with a biomedical research focus are **not** eligible
- If you are uncertain about whether your research is appropriate for BIO, contact a Program Officer (bio-dbi-prfb@nsf.gov)



Proposal Preparation



3 Essential Resources



PAPPG



U.S. National Science Foundation

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

View guidelines

NSF 26-504

1 Important information for proposers and award recipients

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements specified in the...

Supports postdoctoral fellowships that train early career scientists to apply AI to biological research, advancing biotechnology innovation while preparing future leaders at the intersection of AI and biology.

Synopsis

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Biological Research has the potential to pave the way for breakthroughs in biotechnology and bio-system design that will create innovations, new industries, and jobs. To capitalize on this promise, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will make awards for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB) to recent doctoral degree recipients, for proposals with a research and training focus at the **Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Biological Sciences to Strengthen and Safeguard Biotechnology Innovations**. Applying AI to highly complex biological systems will reveal unknown mechanisms in the natural world that hold promise for technological developments.

Candidates with AI and/or biology experience will develop deep expertise in both by proposing additional training in both areas. These combinations of current expertise and new cross-training will produce

Upcoming due dates

Full proposal

2026

September 29 2026

Deadline date

Due by 5pm submitting organization's local time

Program guidelines

Award information

Program Website



NSF 26-504: Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

Program Solicitation

Document Information

Document History

- **Posted:** February 5, 2026
- **Replaces:** [NSF 24-533](#)

[View the program page](#)

U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Biological Infrastructure

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitting organization's local time):

- September 29, 2026
- September 28, 2027
- Fourth Tuesday in September, Annually Thereafter

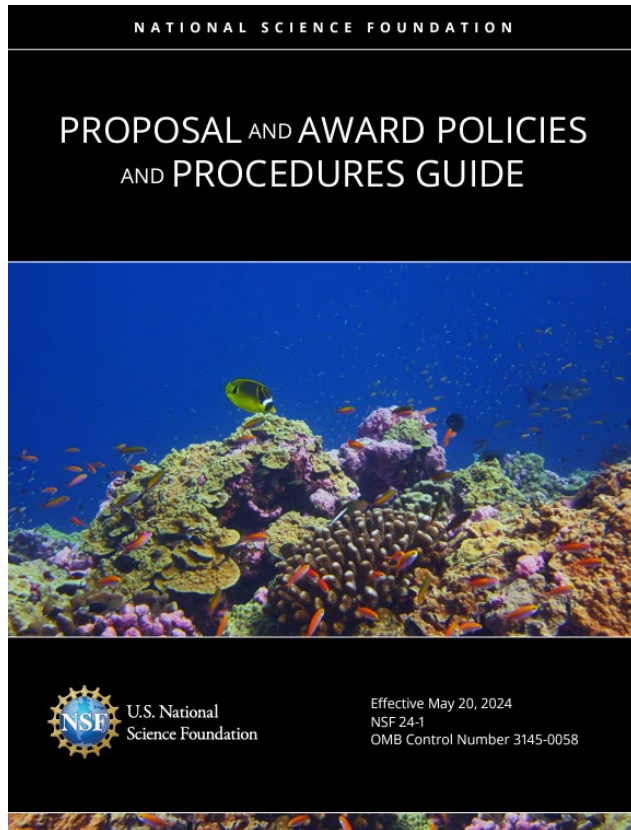
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Summary of Program Requirements
- I. Introduction
- II. Program Description
- III. Award Information
- IV. Eligibility Information
- V. Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions
- VI. NSF Proposal Processing and Review Procedures
- VII. Award Administration Information
- VIII. Agency Contacts

Solicitation



Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 24-1



- Guide provides the detailed information needed to complete your proposal
 - Guidance on policies around proposal submission
 - Details about content of personnel documents
 - Formatting requirements
- PAPPG link
 - Be sure to use the most recent version
 - Supplements provide updates



Program Website

U.S. National Science Foundation

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

[View guidelines](#)
NSF 26-504

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The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Biological Research has the potential to pave the way for breakthroughs in biotechnology and bio-system design that will create innovations, new industries, and jobs. To capitalize on this promise, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will make awards for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB) to recent doctoral degree recipients, for proposals with a research and training focus at the **Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Biological Sciences to Strengthen and Safeguard Biotechnology Innovations**. Applying AI to highly complex biological systems will reveal unknown mechanisms in the natural world that hold promise for technological developments.

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Deadline date

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Program guidelines

Award information

The website includes:

- Description of the program and next deadline (September 29, 2026)
- Relevant announcements and updates
- Links to key resources
 - [How to Apply for Fellowship Applicants](#)
 - [Sponsoring Scientist Statement Instructions](#)
 - [Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology \(PRFB\) Administrative Guide \(NSF 25-032\)](#)
 - [PRFB Reference Letter Author Submission Guide](#)



PRFB Solicitation (NSF 26-504)

NSF 26-504: Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)


Program Solicitation

Document Information

Document History


- Posted: February 5, 2026
- Replaces: [NSF 24-593](#)

[View the program page](#)

 **U.S. National Science Foundation**
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Biological Infrastructure

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The solicitation:

- Introduces background and overview of program
- Lists requirements and components for a complete proposal
 - Necessary documents
 - Description of document format, contents
 - Deviations from the PAPPG
 - Solicitation specific criteria



Solicitation-Specific Considerations

What reviewers will be asked to evaluate...

- Proposers are evaluated on their ability and accomplishments as evidenced by the ***Biographical Sketch***.
- The ***research plan*** is evaluated on scientific merit, feasibility, potential to generate new biological knowledge, alignment with program research focus and for evidence of the proposer's strong independent scientific thinking and initiative.
- The ***training plan*** is evaluated for how distinct the proposed research is from the dissertation, the impact on the career development of the proposer, and the sponsor's expertise related to the proposed research and in mentoring trainees.
- Reviewers evaluate the quality of the ***sponsoring scientist statement*** for the research, professional development, and career goals of proposer.
- Other important evaluative factors are the ***suitability of the host institution***, including colleagues and facilities.



Merit Review: Reviewers will ask...

How will this advance science (intellectual merit) and benefit society (broader impacts)?

Describe what you propose to do, explain the significance and how the project aligns with the PRFB research focus.

Is the work creative or transformative?

Lay out the hypothesis and why previous studies haven't been able to address the question.

Is the work plan clear?

Explain approach taken, timeline of tasks, and how steps connect to the hypothesis. Consider pitfalls.

Is the team qualified?

Clarify your sponsor(s) roles, your background and synergistic activities.

Do they have adequate resources and facilities?

Use Project Description, Sponsoring Scientist Statement, Data Management and Sharing Plan.

Considering each aspect is key in developing a competitive proposal.



Broader Impacts: Benefiting Society

Examples of desired outcomes include, but aren't limited to:

- STEM Education
- STEM Workforce
- Public Engagement
- Partnerships
- Infrastructure
- Economic Competitiveness
- National Security

See NSF web pages for more details:

- <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/learn/broader-impacts>
- <https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities>



Recommendation: Reach out to PDs

- **AFTER** reading the solicitation and supporting resources, reach out to a Program Director to:
 - Send a “one-pager” describing your project
 - Format it like the **Project Summary** in the solicitation, including Overview, Intellectual Merit, and Broader Impacts
 - Confirm eligibility for the program
 - Clarify aspects of the program

Email: bio-dbi-prfb@nsf.gov



Recommendation: Start Early!

Take advantage of the How to Apply information on the program webpage and email program officers with questions at bio-dbi-prfb@bio.gov

- Set up Multifactor Authentication (MFA) in Research.gov
- Confirm access to the proposal portal
- Set up your postdoctoral role with a permanent email address
- Confirm your deadline for submission
- Create/export personnel documents from SciEnCV (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae' see NSF option)
- Double-check that you uploaded the correct documents
- Plan to submit at least 3 days prior to the deadline!





Thanks!

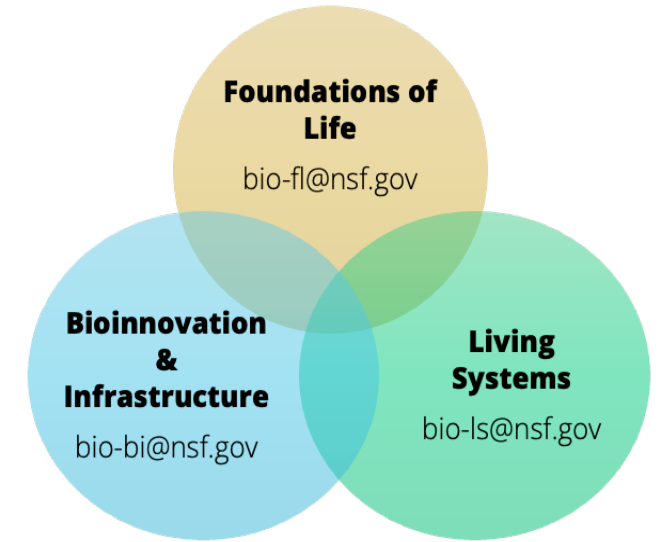
bio-dbi-prfb@nsf.gov

BIO Virtual Office Hour Reminders

- Submit questions in the Zoom Q&A box
- Project-specific questions are best addressed individually by contacting a Program Director
- Next BIO Virtual Office Hour:
 - July 16, 2026
 - Topic – To be announced



BIO Contact Information



- **F**oundations of **L**ife: BIO-FL@nsf.gov
- **L**iving **S**ystems: BIO-LS@nsf.gov
- **B**ioinnovation and **I**nfrastructure: BIO-BI@nsf.gov

Or contact your cognizant Program Officer, whose name can be found in your proposal portal (Research.gov or Grants.gov).



BIO News and Updates

Sign-up for emails on new solicitations; events; due date reminders; and BIO's quarterly newsletter, including information on new priorities and solicitations, highlights from the community, and more!

Visit www.nsf.gov and scroll down until you see the Sign up and social media banner, click on the yellow box, and follow the prompts.

