



The Patterson Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Must I be employed at a research institution in Connecticut, New Jersey or New York during the award period?

Yes, there are no exceptions.

Is it required that I am employed by a research institution in Connecticut, New Jersey or New York at the time of the application deadline?

No, you may be employed outside this three-state area prior to the start of funding as long as your mentor's letter confirms that you have a postdoctoral position in one of these three states by the time funding begins.

Is my research eligible?

The Patterson Trust encourages applications for research projects in brain circuitry, viewed broadly, and involving a wide range of disciplines. Examples of funding areas include, but are not limited to: molecular genetic analysis of neural circuit assembly and function, *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies that link brain circuitry to behavior, the development of innovative methodologies to probe brain function at the synaptic and circuit level, and theoretical approaches to brain function and circuitry. Research projects may involve non-mammalian models when the findings are likely to increase our understanding of brain circuitry in higher animals. Clinical research and trials are outside the scope of the Program.

Does spinal cord research that deals with neural networks for behavior meet eligibility requirements?

We consider research in neural networks of the spinal cord within our eligibility requirements. It would be helpful if you would include in the description of your project a sentence or two that describes how your research findings may advance the understanding of neural networks in the brain.

Are all research projects involving clinical trials beyond the scope of this fellowship program?

Yes.

How do my other sources of funding (i.e. K08) factor into the review of my application?

Supplementation of the stipend is permitted; however, a K08 award and named fellowships that support your salary fully would make you ineligible to apply for the Patterson Fellowship.

What is considered full-time experience?

Full-time postdoctoral research experience is defined as employment as a postdoctoral fellow in a research laboratory five full days each week. If research was interrupted for medical leave of absence, to complete clinical training or for other reasons, these months are not considered part of the full-time postdoctoral research experience. Part-time employment, as documented by the Mentor, may be cumulative towards these eligibility requirements.

Application

How do I apply?

Visit www.tmfnet.org/grantmake.html and read the Application Guidelines and Instructions. Please download the Application Forms document to your computer. All of the application instructions are included in these documents so please read them carefully.

All components of the application must be completed by the deadline and include:

- Online submission (due 9/15/08, 5pm Eastern Time)
- Mailed submission (due 9/19/08, 5pm Eastern Time)

Is there a limit on how many applications are from one institution?

There are no institutional limitations on the number of applicants who may submit applications. The only limitation is that Mentors can only support one applicant per grant cycle.

Is there a limit on how many applications are from one applicant?

Yes, one application per grant cycle. If more than one application is submitted during a grant cycle, only the first will be considered.

Is the Mentor Letter confidential?

No, the Mentor Letter is not confidential. It must be written on letterhead and signed by the Mentor, then scanned and attached as a PDF document to the applicant's online submission by the applicant.

What is the difference between the Sponsored Programs Officer and the Institutional Officer to Receive Funds?

Depending on the institution, the Office of Sponsored Programs usually signs off on the application to insure that you and the Institution have met the eligibility requirements. The Institutional Officer to Receive Funds is usually the fiscal officer and receives award payments, prepares fiscal reports and oversees other financial requirements of your grant. Please check with your institution to determine who should sign these sections of the Face Sheet.

Online Submission

How do I access the online application?

Visit the site www.tmfnet.org/grantmake.html to read and download all background documents and information. You will see two links for the online application:

- Begin Online Application: https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35023
- Continue Online Application: https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM

Click the appropriate link to begin or continue your online submission.

I am not able to open the links given on www.tmfnet.org.

All applicants must use one of the following certified browsers:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 (for PC) SP-1
- Netscape 7.2
- Opera 7.5.4
- Safari 1.2 (for Mac)
- Mozilla Firefox 1.0

The online submission also utilizes “cookies” on your computer. You may need to enable cookies in order for the online form to open correctly. For more information on enabling cookies, visit <http://www.google.com/cookies.html>.

I have already started an application and created an account, but I cannot log in again. How can I access my application?

Applicants must create an account before beginning the process, so your application is saved in your online account. Visit https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM to login and revise your application. If you have forgotten your password, click the “forgot password” link and your password will be sent to you via email.

Mailed Submission

My Mentor’s biosketch is in the NIH biosketch format, but an older version. Is this ok?

Yes, this is fine.

Can I send the mailed portion of the application by FedEx, UPS, etc?

Yes, any mailing service is acceptable as long as your mailed submission arrives to our office on or before 5 p.m., Friday, September 19, 2008.

Letters of Recommendation

Can the recommenders send his/her letter directly to The Medical Foundation?

No. Both Letters of Recommendation must be included with the copy of the Mailed Application Submission.

My thesis advisor is not able to furnish a Letter of Recommendation for me.

If the thesis advisor is unavailable to write a letter of recommendation, please include a brief explanation of his/her unavailability.

Funding Decisions

When does funding begin?

Funding begins on January 15, 2009.

(A later start date is permitted but all awards must be activated by July 1, 2009)

How many awards are available?

Up to 10 two-year awards.

When will I receive receipt confirmation about my grant application?

You will receive the following correspondence:

- Online submission confirmation email—immediately after you submit your online submission
- Application completion confirmation email—By September 2008, we will confirm via email that your entire application is received and complete.
- Declination or Approval notification—by early December 2008

Will I receive critiques for my proposal?

Applicants will not receive written critiques of their research proposals.

Post-Award

What happens when I receive other funding sources during the fellowship period?

Receipt of major additional funding must be reported to The Medical Foundation.

Who do I contact if I need further information?

Please download and read the Application Guidelines and Application Instructions. If you still have further questions, please email Linda Lam at LLAM@tmfnet.org or 617-279-2240 ext. 710.