



STUDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Behavioral Science and Health Science Student Fellowship

For funding beginning July 1, 2009

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Epilepsy Foundation awards grants and fellowships for cutting-edge research into the causes of epilepsy. Program goals include understanding basic mechanisms, developing new therapeutic approaches, understanding the behavioral and psychosocial aspects of having epilepsy, and encouraging the professional development of scientists and healthcare professionals. The Foundation's Student Fellowship Programs offer qualified individuals the opportunity to develop expertise in epilepsy research through a three-month training experience and involvement in a research project.

- The Health Sciences Student Fellowship is geared toward individuals who are enrolled in medical school, a doctoral program, or other graduate program.
- The Behavioral Sciences Student Fellowship is available to both undergraduate and graduate students who are studying a field relevant to epilepsy research or clinical care. This includes, but is not limited to: sociology, social work, psychology, anthropology, nursing, economics, vocational rehabilitation, counseling, and political science.

Student Fellows are awarded a stipend in the amount of \$3,000 to work on a three-month epilepsy study project. The number of awards granted each year is contingent on funds available.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a Health Sciences Student Fellowship or a Behavioral Sciences Student Fellowship, an applicant must:

1. Be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in medical school, a doctoral program, or other graduate program for the Health Sciences Student Fellowship; be enrolled in an appropriate undergraduate or graduate program in the behavioral sciences for the Behavioral Sciences Student Fellowship;
2. Have a defined epilepsy-related study or research plan;
3. Have a three-month free period during which to conduct the fellowship (generally during the summer);
4. Have a qualified mentor with expertise to supervise and provide guidance on the project; and
5. Have access to institutional resources, including an appropriate clinical or laboratory setting, to conduct the proposed project.

These fellowships are not intended for individuals who are pursuing a dissertation research project.

Students may be accepted at any point in their schooling. This includes the periods following acceptance but before beginning the first year and the period immediately following the final year.

Foundation fellowship programs are designed as training opportunities, and the quality of the training plans and environment are factors in the evaluation of proposals.

Students may re-apply for additional fellowship funding through the regular application process.

U.S. citizenship is not required; however, the project must be conducted in the U.S.

Applications from women, members of minority groups, and people with disabilities are especially encouraged.

SELECTION

Applications are evaluated based on the quality of the proposed project; relevance of the proposed work to epilepsy and of the applicant's interest in the field of epilepsy; the applicant's qualifications; the mentor's qualifications, including his/her commitment to the student and the project; and the adequacy of facility and the quality of the training environment for research related to epilepsy

SUPPORT

Successful applicants receive a stipend of \$3,000 over the three-month period of the award. Payment is made to the institution. *Submission of scientific and financial reports, no later than 30 days after completion of project, is a requirement.*

SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES

An applicant may not apply for, use, or accept Foundation funds for a research project or part of a project already supported by the Foundation or supported by funds from another public or private source. Accordingly, full disclosure of all available and pending funds for research support must be made in the application. If funds from other sources become available to the applicant during the review or tenure of a Foundation research award, the applicant must inform the Foundation in writing. The Foundation and its advisors will then make a decision about the continuation of the research award.

HUMAN AND/OR ANIMAL SUBJECTS/TISSUES

When human subjects or tissues are to be used in a research project, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the research protocol approved by the Institution's Human Subject Review Board, a copy of that Board's current approval notice, and a copy of the patient informed consent form(s). If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

When animal and/or animal tissues are used, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the institution's animal care and use committee approval. If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION POLICY ON USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

All entities that receive funding from the Epilepsy Foundation must adhere to the following principles:

1. Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid, and useful results are available.
2. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used.
3. The acquisition, care, and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
4. Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research fellowship that the facility(ies), its researchers, and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards.
5. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

1. In order to guarantee review, applications **MUST BE COMPLETE AND RECEIVED** by the deadline date.
2. All assurances regarding human subjects should be included with the completed application, if available. If awarded, failure to provide the required documentation in a timely fashion may result in the award being rescinded.
3. For an application to be considered complete, all institutional signatures and approvals must be included on the signature page and uploaded into the application before the time of submission and not submitted separately.
4. Letters of recommendation must be included with the application and not submitted separately.
5. **NO** additional information for an application will be accepted after the due date including supplemental data to the research plan and letters of recommendation.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All applications are due by February 27, 2009 for funding to begin July 1, 2009. **A complete application must be submitted via the proposalCentral system by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on February 27, 2009. The proposalCentral system can be accessed on the Foundation's website at <http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/research/grants.cfm>.**

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), Monday-Friday, EST.

Phone: 1-800-875-2562 x227 or 301-916-4557 x227

E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

Applications will not be accepted, nor any parts of the application, if sent to the Foundation offices by U.S. mail.