Postdoctoral Research Awards
Senior Research Awards • Graduate Research Awards

Competitive awards are available for scientists and engineers to conduct independent research in federal laboratories and affiliated institutions. Awards include attractive stipends, health insurance, professional travel and relocation.

The NRC Research Associateship Programs

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine administer competitive graduate postdoctoral and senior research awards on behalf of U.S. government research agencies and affiliated institutions with facilities at over 100 locations throughout the U.S. and abroad. Awardees have the opportunity to:

- conduct independent research in an area compatible with the interests of the sponsoring laboratory
- devote full-time effort to research and publication
- access the excellent and often unique facilities of the federal research enterprise
- collaborate with leading scientists and engineers at federal research laboratories and affiliated institutions

Eligibility

Awards are available for scientists and engineers at all stages of their career. Postdoctoral applicants should hold, or anticipate receiving, an earned doctorate in science or engineering. Many awards are open to foreign nationals as well as to U.S. citizens.

The Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by panels of distinguished scientists and engineers representing the fields of Chemistry, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics and Applied Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physics. Evaluation is based on the applicant's academic and research record, letters of recommendation, and scientific merit of the proposed research. Reviewers assess the quality of an application, the likelihood for success and the contribution of the research to the mission of the sponsoring federal laboratory. Awards are made based on the ranking assigned by the review panel.

Receiving an NRC Research Associate Award

Graduate and postdoctoral awards are for 12 months with renewal for a second or third year determined by evaluation of the Associate's progress and the availability of funding. Senior research awards may be for shorter periods of time. Summer Faculty awards are for 8-14 weeks, renewable for up to 3 successive summers.

Stipend and Benefits

NRC Research Associates receive annual stipends ranging from $45,000 to $80,000 for recent graduates and proportionally higher for Senior Associates. Graduate entry level stipends begin at $30,000 and are higher for additional experience. In addition, the Associates are provided health insurance, relocation benefits and an allowance for professional travel. The host laboratory provides research facilities, equipment and funding for supplies to support the Associate's research.

How to Apply

- Find Research Opportunities that match your interests by exploring our website: www.nationalacademies.org/rap
- Contact prospective Research Adviser(s) to discuss your interests. Research Adviser contact information is provided on the website. Note that you can apply to up to three different laboratories during an application cycle.
- Refer to our website for specific application information including deadlines and instructions on how to apply.
- Apply online through the WebRAP application system. Follow application instructions carefully and make sure all supporting documents (transcripts, reference reports) are submitted.

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