



GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

National Academy of Sciences
National Academy of Engineering
Institute of Medicine
National Research Council

In 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion and fire caused the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, which had significant impacts on the Gulf environment and people. As part of legal settlements with the companies involved, the federal government asked the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to establish a new program to fund and conduct activities to enhance oil system safety, human health, and environmental resources in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf regions that support oil and gas production.

Over its 30-year duration, the Gulf Research Program will work to enhance oil system safety and the protection of human health and the environment in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf areas by seeking to improve understanding of the region's interconnecting human, environmental, and energy systems and fostering application of these insights to benefit Gulf communities, ecosystems, and the Nation.

Gulf Research Program Fellowship Opportunities

The Gulf Research Program is committed to the long-term task of capacity building in the Gulf, including the development of future generations of scientists, engineers, and health professionals prepared to work at the intersections of oil system safety, human health, and environmental resources in the Gulf region and to think holistically and at the community and ecosystem levels about the region's challenges.

As a first step toward enhancing the breadth and leadership capacity of leading early-career science, engineering, and health professionals, the Program is initiating two new fellowship opportunities described below—early-career research fellowships and science policy fellowships.

Early-Career Research Fellowships

Early-Career Research Fellowships will recognize professionals at the critical pretenure phase of their careers for exceptional leadership, past performance, and potential for future contributions to improving oil system safety, human health, or the environment. These two-year fellowships will be awarded to tenure-track (pretenure) faculty (or the equivalent) at colleges, universities, and research institutions. Fellowship funds—\$76,000 paid to the fellow's institution in the form of a two-year grant—will be used primarily for research-related expenses and professional development. Up to five fellows will be selected in 2015.

Science Policy Fellowships

Science Policy Fellowships will contribute to leadership development and capacity building by providing recipients with a valuable educational experience at the science-policy interface. Fellows will spend one year on the staff of a state legislature; state environmental, natural resources, oil and gas, or public health agency; or regional offices of relevant federal agencies in the Gulf region. Fellows will participate in and contribute to the state or federal policy making process. Depending on placement, duties are likely to include analyzing and synthesizing scientific information to

support policy development, writing policy memos, and drafting legislation. The fellowships will be awarded to graduate and professional school students and those who have completed their graduate studies no more than five years before beginning the fellowship. Fellows will receive an annual stipend of \$45,000 for current students or \$55,000 for graduates. Fellowship benefits will also include support for professional development courses (e.g., science communication or project management) and professional travel. Up to five fellows will be chosen in 2015.

Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria for Gulf Research Program Fellowships:

- The fellowships will be awarded to applicants whose research relates to the [mission and objectives of the Gulf Research Program](#).
- Areas of research may include social and behavioral sciences, health and medicine, engineering, earth and life sciences, or relevant interdisciplinary fields.
- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, or an individual granted deferred action status under the Department of Homeland Security Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program.
- Federal employees are not eligible for the fellowships.

Additional Eligibility Criteria for Early-Career Research Fellowship:

- Tenure-track faculty (or equivalent) at a college, university, or research institution who will not receive tenure before September 1, 2015.
- Applicants must identify a senior-level faculty member at their affiliated institution willing to serve as a career mentor.
- Applicants must be affiliated with a U.S. institution that has a valid tax ID number.

Additional Eligibility Criteria for Science Policy Fellowship:

- Graduate and professional school students and those who received their graduate degree on or after September 1, 2010 are eligible to apply. Eligible degrees include MA/MS, PhD, ScD, MPH, MD, or DVM.
- Applicants are not required to have direct public policy experience but should have a demonstrable interest in applying science to public policy.

The following will be considered as positive factors in choosing successful applicants for both fellowships:

- Evidence of a strong scientific and technical background and superior scholarship;
 - Demonstrated verbal and written communication skills;
 - Leadership qualities;
 - Membership in one or more groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the applicant's scientific discipline.
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To Learn More, Including How to Apply

To learn more about the fellowship application and selection process, please visit www.nas.edu/gulf/fellowships after December 1, 2014.

To be notified when applications open and to receive the latest information about Gulf Research Program funding opportunities and other activities, sign up to receive e-updates at www.nas.edu/gulf.

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