FAQs about the 2026 Postdoctoral Fellowship

Note: We are providing this living FAQ compilation on our website to ensure that everyone has access to information we share when applicants ask us questions. We encourage you to sign up for our application newsletter to receive any urgent updates, as well as these FAQs when we update them.

Deadline for submission is Monday, March 30, 2026 at 4:59 p.m. EDT

FAQs as of February 6, 2026

- **Should mentors submit their biosketches in the new NIH format, or should they use the template downloaded directly from the application in ProposalCentral?**

We will accept either the old or new NIH biosketch format. If you use the new format, please ensure it is compiled into a single PDF, as ProposalCentral allows only one biosketch upload per key personnel.

FAQs as of January 9, 2026

Foundation Funds Cannot be Used to Offset Other Financial Obligations to a Fellow

The Foundation aims to have its fellowship stipend supplement all other financial obligations that the fellow's institution may have to them. The Foundation will not make any exceptions. If an institution lowers an awardee's salary or other financial obligations or commitments because of the fellowship stipend, the Foundation will have the right to disallow the award and seek the return of all . **Make sure that this prohibition this use of Foundation funds is acceptable to your institution before they sign your application, and you submit it.**

- **What has changed in this year's application from last year's?**

The Foundation has made a number of important changes in terms of eligibility and application requirements:

- If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must have permanent residence status, reside in the U.S., and possess a valid (current or under a valid renewal) Green Card for the duration of the fellowship. Holders of J-1 visas for postdocs are not eligible to apply.
- We clearly state that artificial intelligence cannot be used to create or refine your research or training plans.
- We have added a section on other financial support in the application. The sole reason is to highlight the importance of an applicant and their grants administration understanding, prior to submission, if any other funding running concurrently with any fellowship award, might prevent your institution from signing a letter of agreement to manage an awardee's

fellowship funds. This may be an issue if other funding covers the same research and/or training that is in the application.

- We have added clarifications about the Foundation's expectations that an award start by October 1, 2026. We will not agree to delays simply to avoid a funding overlap problem, although we might agree to a minimal delay. We are under no obligation to make any changes to satisfy administrative issues on the applicant's side.
- We have added a requirement to provide the date your academic doctoral degree was conferred.

- **Is there a limit on the number of co-mentors I can have?**

No. Your co-mentor(s) should cover the expertise, experience and opportunities you need. Gaps in support needed will scored negatively. Reviewers will also negatively score more mentors than they think are needed or that are a manageable distribution of support time and efforts.

- **Can my mentor provide a blinded letter of recommendation?**

No. The primary mentor demonstrates their support in a section of the Mentor Information template. Any co-mentors are required to submit letters of support.

- **Can my program director provide a blinded letter of recommendation?**

Yes. The letter required must be from your dissertation advisor. You have the option of asking anyone except your mentor(s) to write another letter. Second letters are optional.

- **Are copies of my transcripts considered official transcripts if I submit them and they are not locked?**

Yes. By official, we mean that a copy you provide must be a copy of the transcript your school would generate. It cannot be a certified copy that is locked. It does not need to come directly to us.

If any of these answers does not meet your information needs or you have new questions, please send a message to info@foundation4pt.org.