Society of Science Fellows:

Description:

FAQ:

Q: How does the funding work?

A: The SoSF are supported through the College of Science, the Office of the Provost or the Bioengineering and Life Sciences (BELs) initiative for up to two years. The salary is aligned with the NRSA pay scale from the National Institutes of Health in accordance with the number of years experience. This salary can be supplemented. **SoSF fellows are expected to spend at least three years at ND as a postdoctoral fellow.** Support for the third year and beyond must come from other funds. Ideally, these funds are grants that the fellows [acting alone or with their mentor(s)] have acquired during the first two years of their fellowship. If that is unavailable, then the support needs to come from other faculty funds including grants, start up, etc.

Q: Do the fellows receive any travel/research support funds in addition to their salary?

A: The fellows receive a one-time $10,000 stipend for professional development purposes. This stipend is intended to support independent research pursuits and/or professional development opportunities. The stipend is not intended to fund research done in support of their mentor's program, as this should be covered by the mentor.

Q: I have identified a SoSF applicant/been contacted by an applicant whose PhD year is before the date specified in the ad. Can they still apply?

A: In principle yes, though there is a preference to give the fellowships to candidates who will spend the full three years at ND as postdocs. As the title of 'postdoc' can only be used for 5 years post PhD date, this means applicants should have a maximum of 2 years of experience before applying. The bias for new graduates is especially true for Biology/Chemistry, as it is more common for people to spend >5 years as a postdoc in Math and Physics.

Q: Can my current (already at ND) postdoc apply for this position?

A: No. The spirit of the program is to increase the number of postdocs in the CoS, not to shuffle postdoctoral fellows who are already employed by Notre Dame.

Q: Can internal ND students/postdocs apply?

A: No. The goal of the program is to bring in new, non-ND postdocs.

Q: Can international applicants apply? If so, how do visas work?

A: International applicants can certainly apply and we openly encourage it! Visas are handled as in any other postdoc hire: once the signed LOI has been returned and the appointment process begins, ISSA will be informed and will contact the new fellow and gather some information from them. Using that information, ISSA determines the visa suggestion and will inform the CoS. Costs for the visa are not covered by the CoS and must be covered by the applicant/mentor.

Q: Is there a requirement on which years of the fellow's appointment are covered by the CoS and which are supported by other means?

A: No. Arrangements can be made to best suit the mentor and fellow. For example, a PI could arrange to support the first year of the fellowship (e.g. because she/he has a grant that is expiring), with the CoS covering the latter two. These arrangements take the form of MOU that are drafted when the fellow is hired.

Q: I'd like to offer a higher salary to a SoSF, or additional benefits like more research money or moving expenses. Is that possible?

A: Yes, additional salary or benefits covered by the fellow's mentor can absolutely be included. These details are sorted out at the time of the fellow's appointment in the letter of intent.