

# USDA APHIS NBAF SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The purpose of the USDA APHIS NBAF Scientist Training Program is to build the necessary technical and subject matter expertise to support stand-up of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at the new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, KS. In addition to serving as an international reference laboratory for foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) and a national reference laboratory for other foreign animal diseases such as classical swine fever and African swine fever viruses, FADDL's mission will expand to include emerging and zoonotic diseases, including BSL-4 pathogens. To minimize the SME gap and identify highly qualified candidates to fill key roles in the new NBAF facility, APHIS has developed the NBAF Scientist Training Program (NSTP). NSTP fellows will receive full tuition and supplementary support to complete an MS, PhD or DVM/PhD program in target laboratory-based fields of study: microbiology, virology, molecular biology, diagnostics, bioinformatics, etc.

## FELLOWSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT

APHIS NSTP fellows will receive funding to cover the following for a maximum of 5 years:

- Tuition and fees
- Stipend (\$50,000 annually for PhD or DVM/PhD students; \$35,000 annually for MS students) and health benefits (Kansas Board of Regents GRA health insurance plan)
- Materials and supplies (\$20,000 annually)
- Travel (\$5,000 annually)
- Publication costs (\$1,000 annually)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful candidates must:

- Be a US citizen
- Meet all requirements of the University graduate program and have been accepted into an approved graduate training program (MS, PhD, DVM/PhD) at time of application to NSTP.
- Identify a faculty mentor supportive of enrollment in NSTP.
- Exhibit a strong interest in emerging, zoonotic and/or foreign animal diseases.
- Be willing to commit to working at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, KS, after degree completion for the specified time for the degree completed.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

NSTP fellows must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA to ensure continued funding.
- Support development of NBAF standard operating procedures and work instructions.
- Participate in meetings with the NSTP advisory committee and provide biannual progress reports.
- Continuation of funding is dependent on satisfactory progress through program.
- Upon successful completion of program, fellows will be guaranteed a federal position at target grade and area of expertise.
- Failure to complete the program will require payback of funding.

## SERVICE COMMITMENT

All NSTP fellows must fulfill a service commitment in a federal position at NBAF and or Plum Island upon completion of the degree program. Years of service are determined by the number of years of funding received:

- 4 years of service at target position for 2 years of funding;
- 5 years of service for 3 years of funding;
- 6 years of service for 4 years of funding;
- 7 years of service for 5 years of funding.

*Failure to complete the service commitment will require fellow to repay funding received.*