



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

BIO 18-001

## Dear Colleague Letter: Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) - Employment Opportunities for Program Director Positions (Open Until Filled)

---

March 26, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

The Directorate for Biology (BIO), at the National Science Foundation announces a nationwide search for Program Directors to serve on a rotating (temporary) basis in the following Divisions:

1. **Biological Infrastructure (DBI):** DBI empowers biological discovery by supporting the development and enhancement of biological resources, human capital, and centers. These investments underpin advances in all areas of biological research.  
<https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DBI>
2. **Environmental Biology (DEB):** DEB supports fundamental research on populations, species, communities, and ecosystems. <https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?org=DEB>
3. **Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS):** IOS supports research aimed at improving our understanding of organisms as integrated units of biological organization.  
<https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=IOS>
4. **Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB):** MCB supports fundamental research and related activities designed to promote understanding of complex living systems at the molecular, subcellular, and cellular levels. <https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=MCB>

Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin immediately upon receipt of the first application and will continue until selections are made.

Program Directors have an unparalleled opportunity and responsibility to ensure NSF-funded research is at the forefront of advancing fundamental knowledge. In support of that, Program Directors are responsible for extensive interaction with academic research communities and industry, as well as interaction with other Federal agencies that may lead to development of interagency collaborations. Within this context, Program Directors solicit, receive and review research and education proposals, make funding recommendations, administer awards, and undertake interaction with research communities in these fields. They are also responsible for service to Foundation-wide activities and initiatives that together accomplish NSF's strategic goals to: 1) Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering, 2) Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education, and 3) Excel as a Federal Science Agency. The

position requires a commitment to high standards of intellectualism and ethical conduct, a considerable breadth of interest, receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent training in a field of the biology, a broad knowledge of one of the relevant disciplinary areas of the Biological Sciences, a knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, plus after award of the Ph.D., at least six years of successful independent research normally expected of the academic rank of associate professor or higher. Some administrative experience and experience working in teams are desirable. Appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. Skills in multidisciplinary research are highly desirable.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

**Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment:** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement. For additional information regarding IPA positions, please visit the NSF website at: <https://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/ipa.jsp>.

**Visiting Scientist Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institutions and placed on the NSF payroll. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institutions or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

**Temporary Excepted Service Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers, and Educators" on the NSF website at: <https://www.nsf.gov/careers/> and

<https://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/microsite/>.

Applications will be accepted from U.S. Citizens. Recent changes in Federal Appropriations Law require Non-Citizens to meet certain eligibility criteria to be considered. Therefore, Non-Citizens must certify eligibility by signing and attaching this [Citizenship Affidavit](#) to their application. This also applies to individuals considered for Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignments to NSF. Non-citizens who do not provide the affidavit at the time of application will not be considered eligible.

Should you or your colleagues be interested in this position, or wish to nominate suitable candidates, please email a current CV accompanied by a cover letter highlighting the background that specifically relates to the program objectives to:

Maria Sutton  
Office of the Assistant Director  
Directorate for Biological Sciences  
National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, C 12022  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Phone: (703) 292-8400  
Fax: (703) 292-9154  
[msutton@nsf.gov](mailto:msutton@nsf.gov)

**NSF IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTED TO EMPLOYING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**