



Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellowship

Environmental Protection and Stewardship Track

Review Criteria – Award Year 2021

The 2021 Early-Career Research Fellowship application review for Environmental Protection and Stewardship track will be conducted in two stages. Applications will first go through an eligibility and relevance review conducted by Gulf Research Program staff. Applications that are eligible and deemed highly relevant to the charge of the GRP and the track goal will proceed to the second review stage focused on merit and impact.

Charge of the Gulf Research Program: The Gulf Research Program is charged with focusing on “human health and environmental protection including issues relating to offshore oil drilling and hydrocarbon production and transportation in the Gulf of Mexico and on the United States’ outer continental shelf.”

Track Goal: Advance understanding of the changing ecosystems of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and its coastal zones as it applies to environmental protection and stewardship, including natural resource management and decision making.

Eligibility and Relevance Review

Eligibility

- Is the fellow a current federal employee?
- Did the fellow complete their eligible degree (PhD, ScD, EngD, MD, DrPH, or DVM) on or after September 1st, 2011?
- Does the fellow appear to currently hold a permanent and fully independent position as an investigation, faculty member, clinician scientist, or scientific team lead in industry or academia? (A postdoc is not considered a fully independent position.)

Relevance

- Applicant’s relevance essay demonstrates how their prior and future work will contribute to the Environmental Protection and Stewardship track goal.
- Applicant’s essay demonstrates clear understanding of the relevant issues concerning changing ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal zones as well as environmental protection and stewardship.

Technical Merit of Current Work (30%)

- Applicant demonstrates strong technical merit and research skills in past work.
- Applicant demonstrates potential to make a unique or significant contribution to the field of study and/or towards the goal of the track.
- The quality, range, and quantity of publications is appropriate for the applicant's discipline and career stage.
- Applicant demonstrates ability to secure funding through research grants/contracts.

Impact Potential and Personal Growth (25%)

Applicant demonstrates a sense of self as a learner and problem solver along with personal growth potential.

Applicant demonstrates initiative within their institution and their field.

Communication Skills (15%)

- Applicant communicates complex ideas well in written formats, application materials are well-organized and cogent, and writing is free of grammatical and syntax errors.
- Application materials convey an understanding of context, audience, and purpose; materials are responsive to the questions asked.

Special Skill (25%)

- Applicant demonstrates experience and skills in collaboration across scientific disciplines.
- Applicant demonstrates experience and skills in engagement with stakeholders and end-users of scientific information.
- Applicant has incorporated considerations of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in their research work.

Mentorship (5%)

- Mentor and applicant have shared goals and understanding of applicant's strengths and identify areas for growth.
- Mentoring plan is realistic and feasible; objectives for mentoring relationship are specific and achievable.
- Mentoring plan is holistic and goes beyond the requirements of tenure and promotion.