

Sandia National Laboratories McClintock Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

Application process

1. What are the steps that I need to complete?
 - a. A complete application packet consists of: 1) a coversheet, 2) an interest statement, 3) a project proposal formatted according to the provided template, 4) 3 letters of recommendation submitted by your references, 5) a completed job application (<https://www.sandia.gov/careers/>, job ID 694042). Additional details are provided at the following link:
https://www.sandia.gov/app/uploads/sites/51/2024/10/McClintock_Application_Guidelines.pdf.
2. If I submit the proposal but not the job application, will I be eligible for consideration?
 - a. No, the full application package (described above) must be submitted by the January 2, 2025 deadline in order to receive full consideration.
3. When are applications due?
 - a. In order to receive full consideration, your complete application packet should be submitted no later than January 2, 2025, 5 PM Mountain Standard Time.
4. My professor/advisor/mentor is out of office beyond the due date. Will you accept letters of recommendation after the due date?
 - a. Please contact mcclintockfellowship@sandia.gov to discuss this situation.

Proposal format

1. How detailed should my budget be?
 - a. Please bin your expenses in high-level categories (e.g., lab consumables, external analytical services, travel, publication fees). You do not need to include a line item for your time/labor.
2. How much funding is available?
 - a. In addition to time covered for the fellow and mentor, the available budget for expenses (like consumables, travel, etc.) is \$35-40K per year. Please keep in mind that this is meant to support a project that is "half-time" effort and can be completed by the fellow without additional intern or technologist support.
3. What types of expenses should I include in my budget?
 - a. Allowable expenses include lab reagents/consumables, external analytical services (if applicable), travel costs (including conference registration), and publication fees. Small pieces of equipment can be purchased but most standard molecular/cell/microbiology equipment should be available already.



Mentors

1. How are mentors selected?
 - a. Mentors and fellows are matched with one another based on mutual research interests and the mentor's ability to serve as a resource (e.g., provide technical guidance) for the fellow in their proposed independent research. Applicants will be provided descriptions of the mentors' research projects and asked to rank their top choices. This ranking can be revised again after the onsite interview.
2. Should I coordinate with a Sandia investigator as I prepare my proposal?
 - a. No. We encourage applicants to develop their proposals independently.
3. Why is the fellowship set up with a 50/50 split between independent research and mentor-guided research?
 - a. This split is intentional and meant to give fellows the opportunity to pursue their own ideas while also providing ready-made connections to an existing research group, diversity in one's research portfolio, a broad network of collaborators, and opportunities to publish on multiple research topics.

Timing/Timeline/Process

1. Will there be an onsite interview?
 - a. Candidates will first be contacted for a phone/online interview. Following a down-select process based on the strength of the proposal and overall fit, some candidates will be invited for an onsite interview in Albuquerque, NM or Livermore, CA.
2. When will interviews take place?
 - a. Phone or online interviews are anticipated to take place in January/February. Onsite interviews are anticipated to take place in the March/April timeframe. Please note that these dates are subject to change.
3. What can I expect from the onsite interview?
 - a. The interview is typically a day-long process and includes a presentation covering your current work and proposed project; meeting with potential mentors, current post docs, and McClintock Fellows; and a panel-style interview with the selection committee.
4. When is the anticipated start date?
 - a. Fellowships will begin on/around October 1.

Duration

1. How many years of support are available?
 - a. This is a 2-year fellowship and can be extended to 3 given satisfactory progress with the fellow's project.



Location

1. Is remote work an option?
 - a. This is primarily an onsite position. Fellows may be able to telework occasionally, depending on the nature of their work.
2. Where will this position be based?
 - a. The fellowship will be based either in Livermore, CA or Albuquerque, NM. Location will be determined based upon the fellow-mentor match and the mentor's geographic location.

Eligibility

1. I may not graduate until the summer of 2025. Am I eligible to apply?
 - a. Yes. Candidates anticipating a summer 2025 graduation are eligible to apply. Similarly, if you have completed all of your degree requirements prior to the fellowship start date but will not have your degree conferred until December 2025, you are also eligible to apply.
2. I completed my degree a few years ago. Am I eligible to apply?
 - a. Candidates whose degrees have been conferred within the last 3 years are eligible to apply for the McClintock Fellowship.
3. Do I need to hold a DOE security clearance to apply?
 - a. No. You do not need to hold a security clearance, but it is strongly desirable that you be eligible to obtain and maintain a clearance, which requires U.S. citizenship.