

American Museum of Natural History

Richard Gilder Graduate School

AMNH POSDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

General Information

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS PAGE OF INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

PURPOSE

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program at the American Museum of Natural History provides training to postdoctoral investigators to carry out a specific project within a limited time period. The project must fit into one or more of the Museum's areas of interest: Anthropology, Invertebrate Zoology, Paleontology, Physical Sciences (Astrophysics and Earth & Planetary Sciences), and Vertebrate Zoology. This Fellowship Program is designed to advance the training of the participant by having them pursue a project in association with Museum professionals in the Museum setting.

Note: Ornithology projects are not eligible for postdoctoral fellowship using this application. Please apply instead to *The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History* here: <https://www.amnh.org/research/vertebrate-zoology/ornithology/grants>

FUNDING, HOUSING AND DURATION

Postdoctoral Fellows of all groups listed above will be hired as full-time employees of the American Museum of Natural History. During their employment, they will receive full medical insurance as well as all other AMNH employee benefits. Limited relocation, research, and publication support is provided. Appointments are typically made for up to two years. Postdoctoral Fellows are expected to be in residence working at the Museum.

DEADLINE TO APPLY

November 15, 2026; 11:59pm Eastern Time

CO-FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

If you are proposing a project that engages the mission one or more of the Museum's special funds, **you are required to submit an abstract** for each applicable fund. Read the special fund descriptions on Pages 2-3 carefully and apply accordingly. When proposals relate to more than one fund, *multiple abstracts are required*. Note that:

1. All applicants proposing projects that involve marine life and environments (modern or fossil) are **required** to submit a **Lerner-Gray** abstract that describes how the project specifically relates to the fund's purpose.
2. All applicants proposing projects that involve North American fauna are **required** to submit a **Theodore Roosevelt** abstract that describes how the project specifically relates to the fund's purpose.

3. All applicants proposing Invertebrate or Vertebrate Zoology projects are **required** to submit a **Gerstner** abstract that describes how the project specifically relates to the purpose of the fund; applicants proposing Anthropology or Paleontology projects that involve Biology are also **required** to submit a Gerstner abstract. Projects that incorporate bioinformatics and computational biology approaches should highlight these in the abstract.

CO-FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – SPECIAL FUND DESCRIPTIONS:

The Gerstner Scholars Program

Generously funded by Mr. Louis V. Gerstner Jr. and the Gerstner Family Foundation, the Gerstner Scholars program encourages and supports groundbreaking research in biology, with an emphasis on genomics, including such topics as microbes, mammals, invertebrates, marine life, and computational biology. The work of scholars at AMNH co-supported through this competitive program will have implications for broad themes; for example, human and medical research that is informed by understanding the scientific composition and behavior of other species; and advancing our understanding of the evolution and diversity of species and the "tree of life." Projects that incorporate bioinformatics and computational biology approaches are strongly encouraged. All postdoctoral fellowship applicants proposing to conduct research on any of the above themes are required to submit an abstract for the Gerstner Scholars program.

Chosen for their creative approaches to research questions that are likely to lead to important new discoveries in their respective fields, Gerstner Scholars will include biological scientists who have demonstrated outstanding performance that merits recognition early in their careers.

The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund for North American Research

Applicants proposing to conduct research in any phase of wildlife conservation or related fields of North American fauna - terrestrial and freshwater (rivers, lakes, streams), extant or fossil - are required to submit an abstract for the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund. North America includes everything north of the Isthmus of Panama, including the Caribbean.

NOTE: There are two exceptions to this requirement.

1. Applicants submitting research proposals on **ocean/sea marine life** and environments must submit an abstract for the Lerner-Gray Fund, *not* for the Theodore Roosevelt Fund; and
2. Applicants submitting postdoctoral fellowship proposals related to ornithology must apply *only* to the [Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Program](#), *not* to this RGGS postdoctoral fellowship program. PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE THIS APPLICATION.

The Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research

Applicants proposing to conduct research in systematics, evolution, ecology, paleontology or zoology of marine life and environments are required to submit an abstract to the Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research. [Applicants proposing to conduct freshwater research in North America must submit an abstract instead for the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund.]

PD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

There are 8 parts to the application process; all are required and must be completed by **11:59pm Eastern Time on November 15, 2026**.

1. Personal Background
2. Academic History
3. Postdoctoral Fellowships Application
4. Postdoctoral Fellowships Documents to Upload [*abstract(s), project narrative, references cited, CV, optional supplemental material*]
5. Budget Form
6. Two (2) Recommendations
7. Signature
8. Review

For assistance with the application process, you may contact fellowships-rggs@amnh.org.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Application

1. Check off the science division(s) related to your project. You may check off more than one division; if you do, be sure to contact a curator for each of those divisions.
2. Indicate if your project may be eligible for Gerstner, Lerner-Gray, and/or Theodore Roosevelt co-funding by checking the appropriate box(es) (*This will entail submission of required abstracts; see the General Information section*).
3. Include a Project Title.
4. List the AMNH collections, special facilities, and/or other resources you plan to use (if applicable).
5. List potential AMNH curators to serve as collaborators. Click the following link for a list of our curators and their research: [AMNH Faculty](#). Be sure to contact the collaborating curator(s) you identified to discuss your research project well in advance of the application deadline.
6. Indicate the location of your proposed work (such as AMNH, Southwest Research Station, and/or other fieldwork locales).
7. Indicate if you previously received a grant or fellowship from AMNH. Provide the name of the grant/fellowship you were awarded, the project title, and the year.
8. Indicate the duration of the Postdoctoral Fellowship requested (max 2 years; provide the desired start and end date which must be between July 1 and December 31 of the year you are awarded a fellowship).

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP DOCUMENTS TO UPLOAD

All documents should be submitted in PDF or MS Word format. Other options—not preferred unless necessary to preserve information or functionality include presentations (.ppt, .pptx, and .wdp) and image formats (bmp, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .tif, and .tiff)

Project Plan

Your Project Plan must include:

1. A General Abstract – approximately 250 words. The abstract should provide a title and a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and must include: A) objectives for the period of the proposed work and expected significance; B) relation to longer-term goals; and C) relation to the present state of knowledge in the field.
2. If the project being proposed is eligible for Gerstner, Lerner-Gray, or Theodore Roosevelt co-funding, provide an additional separate abstract(s) of up to 150 words for each relevant fund (labeled with the name of the fund) describing how your project specifically relates to the purpose of the fund(s).
3. A 4-page (maximum) narrative project description (including figures, if relevant) with 1-2 additional pages permitted for references cited (All abstracts and references are in addition to this 4-page maximum.).

Note:

- ALL Biology-related projects MUST include a Gerstner Abstract. Projects that incorporate bioinformatics and computational biology approaches are strongly encouraged (*Note: except ornithology projects; see General Information above*).
- ALL North American fauna projects MUST include a Theodore Roosevelt Abstract (*Note: except ornithology or marine projects; see General Information above*).
- ALL marine life and environment projects MUST include a Lerner-Gray Abstract.

References Cited

Reference information is required. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. If the document is available electronically, the website address should be included/identified (can be embedded).

Formatting

- Font: A font size of 12 points is strongly preferred. A smaller font size of 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figures, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters as long as the information is readable. Use single line spacing for the narrative text.
- Margins: Margins, in all directions, must be at least an inch.
- Columns: Use only a standard, single-column format for the text.

Curriculum Vitae

Supplemental Material (Optional)

- Up to 5 additional documents that you think will support your application (e.g., publications)

Budget Form

Prepare a two-year budget itemizing anticipated expenses, including supplies and travel (but not salary), associated with your project, and indicate other possible sources of

funding. The budget total will be calculated automatically within the online form. Include a brief budget justification. We recommend that you consult with your AMNH advisor to confirm the feasibility of your budget request prior to submission.

Letters of Recommendation (2)

Two letters of recommendation are required from people knowledgeable about your work (not including AMNH curators). Indicate the relationship of your recommendation letter writer to you (e.g., advisor, Dept. Chair, employer, research collaborator, etc.)

An email will be sent directly to your recommenders. You will not be copied. Be sure to advise your recommenders of the expected email and the deadline for submission of their recommendation. If you need to make a substitution later, please notify us at fellowships-rggs@amnh.org.

Other Requirements

- Applicants must contact appropriate AMNH curator(s) in their field(s) well before the deadline to discuss the feasibility of their project before applying.
- Awardees must have received their degree or deposited their dissertation before they begin their appointment.
- If you are an international scholar, we can assist you with obtaining a J-1 visa. We do not sponsor H-1B visas for Postdoctoral Fellowships.

REMINDERS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

Be sure you:

- Fill out the required fields.
- Indicate division(s) related to your project.
- Check the co-funding options applicable to your proposal (if any).
- Contact curator(s) related to your project prior to submission.
- Provide abstract(s) and project description per instruction guidelines.
- Provide a budget with totals and justification.
- Provide a CV.
- Fill out the recommendation page with 2 references.