

Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form 2025-2026

About the Award

The Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship is intended to foster the career development of Drexel University postdoctoral researchers in formal, physical, life, and applied sciences, pursuing a career in academic research and seeking long-term employment at a US educational or research institution. The fellowship is intended to subsidize and support postdoctoral training by providing \$83,234 for one year, which can be utilized for salary, fringe, professional development, or any combination of the three. Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows will also augment instruction at Drexel University by providing additional teaching resources in a key scientific, engineering, or clinical field. The fellowship will start on January 1, 2026 and end on December 31, 2026. Cotswold Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows will submit two progress reports due on June 30, 2026 and December 15, 2026.

Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted no later than 4:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 30, 2025. Proposals should be submitted electronically through the [Drexel University Funding Portal](#). Applicants will receive a reply acknowledging the proposal submission automatically. If such a receipt is not received, applicants should contact the office no later than October 7, 2025 to confirm.

Application Process

Candidates must apply for the fellowship under the guidance of a Sponsor—a Drexel faculty member (tenured, tenure-track, or equivalent position) capable of providing mentorship to the fellow. In addition to aiding in the planning, executing, and supervising the proposed research, the Sponsor's role is to foster the development of the fellow's overall knowledge, technical and analytical skills, and capacity for scientific inquiry. The Sponsor is also expected to assist the fellow in attaining their career goals.

Eligibility

- Only current Drexel University postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply.
- Foreign nationals in postdoctoral roles at Drexel are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must have completed one or more of the following degrees or their equivalent: MD, PhD, MD/PhD, DDS, or DVM within the last five years.
- The applicants must be legally permitted to work in the United States.
- Postdoctoral Research is in formal, physical, life, and applied sciences.
- The applicant should have completed at **least one full year** of postdoctoral fellowship (either at Drexel or prior to joining Drexel) at the time of the application deadline (September 30, 2025).
- The applicant must demonstrate a strong record of excellence by presenting evidence of previously received competitive external grants or honorific awards.
- Postdoctoral fellows can receive only one Cotswold Fellowship at Drexel University. Those who have already received the fellowship are not eligible to apply for a second time.
- Postdoctoral fellows whose applications were not selected may resubmit new applications in future fellowship cycles.

Selection and Review

The Fellowship Award Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the Foundation. The Cotswold Foundation renders the final decision regarding fellowships. Applicants will be informed of decisions by December 15, 2025. The primary criteria used to evaluate applicants are:

- Furthering the University's goal to enhance access to a variety of perspectives and promote international engagement in research endeavors and competitiveness in tenure-track placement.
- The quality of the research proposal (importance of the problem, originality of approach, appropriateness of techniques, and clarity of presentation).
- The proposed measurable outcomes.
- The qualifications, experience, and productivity of both the candidate and the Sponsor.
- Evidence of support by the applicant's department and the mentors involved.
- Career development plan and its potential for broadening and strengthening the candidate's ability to independently conduct innovative and substantive research.
- The proposed research and training environment should represent a new opportunity for candidates to expand their scientific skill set.

Application Instructions

The following information must be included in your application:

- The application form contains the postdoctoral fellow's name, department, postdoctoral advisor, and start date of the first postdoctoral position (in or outside Drexel).
- Cover letter** from postdoctoral fellow including the following information in a summary format.
 - Fellow's career goals.
 - Explaining the relevance and importance of the fellowship to a fellow's career.
- Mentoring and Career development plan** (including activities such as teaching, mentoring students, etc.; 1-page maximum).
- Research plan** (2 pages maximum, references can be included on an additional page)
 - Proposed research goals/outcomes.
 - How the project is novel or innovative.
- Applicant curriculum vitae (CV) or biosketch**, including top 5 recent publications and awards; Information about awards won should include details about how many applicants applied and how many awards were given. Also, include a link to the award page. Please include a certified translation if the information is in a language other than English.
- Statement of Purpose:** A letter by the applicant describing how the applicant's background and experience enhance the University's goal to support various scientific perspectives and encourage international engagement in research endeavors.
- A letter of support from the postdoctoral fellow's Sponsor** that acknowledges the applicant's research and career plan and how the mentor will assist the fellow in meeting their career goals. The letter should include a postdoctoral advisor's funding list with current support only.
- Sponsor CV or biosketch** (5 pages max) that includes a list of past and current trainees and "other support" section. Applications with longer CV or Biosketch will not be accepted.
- A letter of support from the applicant's academic unit leader** (e.g., department chair, head, or associate dean) on how they will support the fellow's transition into a faculty position.
- Applicants must create a **COEUS record** before the application deadline.
 - The budget should outline how you intend to utilize the maximum award of \$83,234.
 - These funds can be used to supplement the following:
 - i. Salary
 - ii. Fringe
 - iii. Professional Development
 1. Travel
 2. Conference Registration
 3. Course Registration
 - The funds can't be used to support a technician or student working in conjunction with the fellow.
- The application in the Drexel University Funding Portal should include a copy of the **budget justification**.

Contact

Contact the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, Dr. Hwyla Arafat, at OPA@drexel.edu.