

Gulf Research Program Early-Career Research Fellowship

Environmental Protection and Stewardship Track

Review Criteria – Award Year 2023

The Early-Career Research Fellowship application review for the Environmental Protection and Stewardship track will be conducted in two stages by at least three reviewers during each stage. 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.

Gulf Research Program mission: Develop, translate, and apply science, engineering, and medical knowledge to enhance offshore energy safety, environmental protection and stewardship, and human health and community resilience in the Gulf region in ways that empower its citizens.

Track Goal: Advance scientific knowledge and its application to predict and prepare for ecosystem changes in the Gulf of Mexico region and its coastal zones in the face of climate change and sea level rise.

Eligibility and Relevance Review

Eligibility

- Is the applicant a current federal employee?
- Is the applicant affiliated with a non-federal U.S. institution that has a valid tax ID number?
- Did the applicant complete their eligible degree (PhD, ScD, EngD, MD, DrPH, or DVM) on or after January 1st, 2013?
- Does the applicant appear to currently hold a permanent and fully independent position as an investigator, faculty member, clinician scientist, or scientific team lead in industry, academia, or a research organization? (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 goals of the track: Advance scientific knowledge and its application to predict and prepare for ecosystem changes in the Gulf of Mexico region and its coastal zones in the face of climate change and sea level rise.
- Applicant's essay demonstrates clear understanding of the relevant issues concerning climate change and sea level rise while predicting and preparing for ecosystem changes in the Gulf of Mexico and its coastal zones.
- Applicant's essay demonstrates clearly how their research will contribute to improved regional understanding of the impacts of climate change, specifically that of sea level rise models and predictions.

Merit and Impact Review

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.
- Applicant demonstrates experience utilizing science communication and an understanding on how to use science communication when disseminating their research to a broader audience.

Mentorship (5%)

- Mentor and applicant have shared goals and understanding of applicant's strengths and identified 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.