

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

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Frequently Asked Questions about the SSSC Scientist in Residency Fellowship

Who is eligible to apply?

This program is funded by the National Science Foundation and is limited to United States citizens or nationals. We are seeking funding to provide for international travel in future years. If you have questions regarding eligibility please email or call.

The Fellowship is intended for Career Professionals working in a scientific field but early career scientist or graduate students may be awarded a Fellowship if their experience and area of expertise is a good match for the proposed research or the community engagement aspect of the project. Two collaborators may submit a joint application, however, they will be housed together.

What is included in travel costs?

Travel includes domestic airline tickets, ground transportation, and baggage fees not to exceed \$1400. Travel expenses in excess of this amount are the responsibility of the Fellow. The SIRC director must approve travel – fellows can book approved travel directly and be reimbursed or request the SSSC to book tickets.

Once travel dates are agreed upon and tickets purchased any changes in airfare or change fees created by a change in schedule requested by the Fellow will be the sole responsibility of the Fellow.

What type of accommodation is provided?

Accommodations will be private and include cooking facilities and internet. Accommodations usually are an efficiency apartment across the street from the SSSC. Other accommodation will either be within walking distance to the SSSC or on the bus line. A bicycle is available for use as well. No car is provided.

Fellows will receive a per diem of \$40/day in addition to their stipend. SSSC is located within a few blocks of downtown Sitka, one close grocery store, a post office and a few restaurants. There are two other full service grocery stores, several restaurants and cafes and in the spring and summer, a bi-monthly produce truck and a farmer's market within bus or biking distance.

What type of office facility is provided?

An office space in a shared laboratory will be provided at the SSSC. Wireless internet will be provided. Any shipping, faxes, and copying services are the responsibility of the Fellow.

Will my cell phone work in Sitka?

AT&T is the biggest provider of cell phone service in Sitka. If you have Verizon or another cell phone carrier you should check to insure their service covers our area. If you plan to work near or on the water consider a protective case for your phone.

What is the temperature in Sitka and what is the climate?

Sitka is a temperate rain forest and as such is generally mild and wet. Our annual average temperature is in 45 degrees with monthly averages ranging from 32 to 57; average annual precipitation exceeds 80 inches. Bring rain boots and rain gear. Layering is a great way to dress in this climate. Light weight rain pants are recommended for hiking.

Can family accompany me?

Family can accompany Fellows but any additional expenses in travel and accommodations will be the Fellows responsibility. Because accommodations may differ we will need sufficient notice of this to help arrange appropriate housing.

What about insurance?

The SSSC does not provide health or travel insurance to Fellows.

What are the obligations of each Fellow?

Fellows will be required to participate in outreach to the community and schools during their stay – specific activities will be planned in advance of the Fellowship and any classroom preparation will be provided by the SIRF director. A video may be made and posted on our website.

Fellows will be required to participate in evaluation of the program, including responding to any requests for information from the SIRF Evaluator

Fellows will provide the SIRF director with a written report detailing their activities during their Fellowship and providing insight into the benefit the fellowship provided them and suggestions for future Fellows.

Fellows will provide SSSC with a copy of any publication resulting for work completed during their Fellowship and will acknowledge the SSSC in any publication resulting from work conducted during the Fellowship.

Other:

Fellows are welcome to work on field studies provided they have the appropriate permits. Any collection of marine or freshwater plants or animals will require a permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The SSSC does not provide technicians, vessels, or gear for field work but the SIRF director will provide Fellows with a list of local vendors who can provide these services for a fee and coordinate other logistics when possible.

Any shipping charges for equipment, supplies, or personal belongings are the responsibility of the Fellow.