Technology Fellows Program – FAQ

What is the purpose of the Technology Fellows Program?

The Technology Fellows Program seeks to cut bureaucratic barriers to entering public service and providing access to unique career opportunities in Federal Agencies to highly talented technology professionals. By partnering directly with universities with well-recognized technology programs, the Federal Government will tap into the emerging talent pool and begin to build a sustainable pipeline of talent.

How do I apply to the Technology Fellows Program?

Applicants should refer to the job opportunity announcement (JOA) that will be posted on USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov) and via a link on the PMF website. The announcement will include detailed instructions on how to apply. Applicants will need to submit a resume and submit their answers to the Qualifications Questionnaire during the application process. Before applying, prospective Fellows must receive a nomination to the program from their school's Dean, Chairperson, or Academic Program Director.

When is the deadline to apply?

Applications will be accepted from September15, 2011 until September 25, 2011. For more information on applying and the application process, please visit the PMF application page (http://pmf.gov/become-a-pmf/application-process.aspx).

Who is eligible for a Technology Fellowship?

Graduate students from any discipline who are expected to complete an advanced degree (master's or doctoral-level degree) from a qualifying college or university during the current academic year are eligible to be nominated by their school for the PMF Program. Technology Fellows must have specific experience or education in an information technology related field or academic program.

May non-U.S. citizens apply to the program?

Yes, but they must be eligible to work in the U.S., and must be eligible for and pursuing U.S. citizenship. Exceptions may apply for candidates appointed by Federal Agencies whose appropriation act or agency-

specific statutes allow them to hire and pay non-citizens. Please see the full program description for more information.

Will I be reimbursed for my travel expenses during the interview process?

No, candidates will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

What type of work will Fellows perform?

Technology Fellows will perform different functions in the field of technology management depending on their unique qualifications, the needs of the hiring agency and the target position defined in the Fellow's Individual Development Plan. All Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in rotational assignments and gain in-depth experience in managing large and complex IT programs.

In order to be eligible, must the degree that I am currently pursuing be technology-related?

No. Applicants who have completed a technology-related degree prior to enrollment in their current degree program are also eligible for Technology Fellowships. Additionally, applicants with significant professional experience in information technology or computer sciences are also eligible even if their undergraduate and/or graduate degree programs are not in these fields. Further exceptions based upon skills and competencies may be considered on a case by case basis.

How do finalists, once selected, obtain an appointment as a Technology Fellow?

Opportunities for finalists will be posted to the Program's Projected Position System (PPS). Finalists will then either be selected from the finalist pool by a specific agency or that finalist must apply and be selected for the Technology Fellowship posted position. Additional information on opportunities for Fellows will be available at the annual PMF Job Fair.

I have a degree from a foreign institution. How can I determine whether my degree meets eligibility requirements?

Eligibility criteria for Foreign Education may be found in OPM Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions Policies, and Instructions in the Educational and Training Provisions or Requirements section (http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/policy/ApplicationOfStds-04.asp). The PMF Program Office will verify school accreditation prior to selecting Finalists.

What are the criteria for the assessment of applicants?

Eligible applicants will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Score received on the On-line assessment
- Responses to in-person questions related to job-specific competencies
- Breadth and quality of accomplishments
- Capacity for leadership
- Commitment to excellence in the leadership and management of public technology policies and programs.

The Technology Fellows Program is not currently recruiting at my school. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. Although the candidate must be nominated by their school's Dean, Chairperson, or Academic Program Director; and the nomination must result from a competitive nomination process.

What opportunities do fellows have for training and development?

Fellows will complete 80 hours of formal classroom training per year. The nature of the classroom training will depend on the goals laid out in the Fellow's Individual Development Plan, which is created in consultation with a supervisor. In addition, Fellows will complete a 4-6 month developmental assignment. Additional training and development opportunities will vary by agency and functional role.

May I receive a waiver or deferment of my status as a Technology Fellowship Finalist in order to pursue another professional or educational opportunity?

No. A waiver may be granted to a Finalist for three reasons:

1. Called into active duty with the United States military
2. Severe illness which prevents further participation; or
3. Severe illness of an immediate family member or emergency preventing which prevents further participation.

What compensation does the Technology Fellows Program offer?

Technology Fellows are initially hired to Federal Agencies at the GS-9, GS-11 or GS-12 level (or equivalents). Salaries will vary by geographical location. Fellows will be eligible for promotion during their tenure. In addition, Fellows are eligible for benefits including medical, paid leave and student loan reimbursement.

Where can I find more information regarding the Technology Fellows and PMF Programs?

More information on the Technology Fellows Program is available at cio.gov/techfellows. Information regarding the PMF Program is available at PMF.gov.

To whom do I direct additional questions regarding the Technology Fellows Program?

Questions and information requests regarding the Technology Fellows Program can be directed to the CIO Council at CIOCouncil.Support@gsa.gov