

## NCI Postdoc Recruitment Event (PRE) Frequently Asked Questions

*Last Updated January 23, 2024*

1. If I am ineligible for PRE, what are other ways to explore postdoctoral fellowship opportunities at NCI?
  - a. The following **pathways** are available to you:
    - i. Use the [Train at NCI – Find a Training Program tool](#) to identify other programs of interest.
    - ii. Review the research areas in the individual divisions, offices, and centers and contact the investigator directly.
    - iii. Submit your CV/resume to the NIH database or [NCI Future Fellows database](#). Investigators with open positions may contact you directly.
    - iv. Review open fellowship postings: please see [Cancer Training at NCI](#) for a list of opportunities across NCI Divisions, Offices, and Centers.
2. Can people who already received their PhD still apply?
  - a. No, you must be a current doctoral student at time of application in addition to meeting our other eligibility criteria, which you can find on the [Train at NCI website](#). If you have already received your PhD, you can also find postdoctoral fellowship opportunities using the resources shared above (see question #1).
3. Do doctoral students have to be enrolled specifically in PhD programs or can they be enrolled in other type of doctoral programs (i.e., ScD, EdD, DrPH)?
  - a. All doctoral students are eligible for PRE.
4. What is the acceptance rate into the PRE program?
  - a. The acceptance rate varies from year to year based on the number of applicants, available slots, and research interests/matching with investigators.
5. How important is publications (number of publications) in determining your admission into a postdoc program at NCI?
  - a. PRE does not require any prior publications to apply. Applications as assessed holistically by our selection committee. Acceptance into the program is based on a variety of factors including the number of available slots, application package as well as matching with the investigator's research area.
6. Is there housing available/do you offer housing?
  - a. While NIH doesn't offer on-campus housing, there are resources available for helping to locate housing. Some of these resources can be found through the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Moving Guide, here: [https://training.nih.gov/documents/1/Moving\\_Guide.pdf](https://training.nih.gov/documents/1/Moving_Guide.pdf) There is also limited housing offered through FAES: <https://faes.org/housing>

7. Is there support for students with family, e.g. children, etc.?
  - a. Information on child and family programs can be found here:  
<https://ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/Pages/index.aspx>
8. Where can we find the PRE itinerary?
  - a. A detailed agenda will be shared with accepted applicants in advance. Please view slide 18 from the pre-application webinar for an outline of the event.
9. Do NCI postdocs have to apply for funding? Are postdocs at NCI encouraged to apply to NRSA postdoctoral fellowships by advisors or do they rely on the intramural funds?
  - a. Postdocs are funded by NCI investigators and do not have to seek external funding.
10. Are there any visa restrictions?
  - a. There are no visa restrictions to attend PRE. Most postdocs become a permanent resident or hold a J1 visa at the time of appointment. Please visit the NIH Division of International Services for more information on your individual circumstance:  
<https://ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dis/Pages/default.aspx>
11. How long does it typically take between interviewing and beginning a postdoc?
  - a. The length of time is variable depending on your individual timeline and the position availability. Start dates can be negotiated with investigators.
12. What is the typical appointment duration for postdoc positions?
  - a. Postdocs are up to 5-year positions, with the average postdoc at NCI lasting about 3.5 years.
13. What are the opportunities available within NCI and beyond after postdoc?
  - a. There are a myriad of opportunities available depending on your desired career path. NCI postdocs have pursued careers in academia, industry, and government. Some postdocs also pursue fellowships in other areas including regulatory science, technology transfer, and cancer prevention. During the event, PRE provides resources to inform participants about these fellowship opportunities.