



**The Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training  
Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellowship  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is Ferguson Fellowship?**

The Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellowship provides public health research and professional development in the area of infectious diseases and health disparities with a special focus on increasing knowledge and interest of public health careers among students from under-represented populations. The 9-week fellowship program (one week Orientation in Baltimore and at the CDC and 8 weeks at the research site) is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fellows may also gain clinical experience and develop leadership skills.

**2. What are the eligibility requirements of the Ferguson Fellowship?**

- Students must be currently enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, or public health graduate program.
- Students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must be able to commit to the full length of the fellowship
- Students must be U.S. Citizen, U.S. Nationals, or Permanent Resident

**3. Do students receive a stipend for participating in the Ferguson Fellowship program?**

The stipend amount is \$4,000 for the 9-week program.

**4. I am not an underrepresented student. Can I apply to the Ferguson Fellowship?**

All students currently enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, or public health graduate program and interested in working in the area of infectious diseases and health disparities are welcome to apply.

**5. Can international students participate in the Ferguson Fellowship?**

International students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visa) are not eligible to participate in the Ferguson Fellowship program.

**6. I graduate before the Ferguson Fellowship starts, can I apply?**

Students must be enrolled as a full-time student in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, or public health graduate program during the entire 9-week program.

**7. Can undergraduate students participate in the Ferguson Fellowship program?**

The Ferguson Fellowship is for graduate students only.

**8. How many hours per week should students expect to work?**

Students should expect to devote 40 hours per week to their research project and program activities.

**9. What research experiences are available to fellows at the Atlanta site?**

Fellows assigned to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may participate in infectious diseases research in epidemiology, laboratory science, public health education, policy, economics, informatics, and communications.

**10. What research experiences are available to fellows at the Baltimore site?**

Fellows assigned to Baltimore may participate in infectious diseases research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine, Nursing, or Public Health, or the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Kennedy Krieger/Johns Hopkins/Maryland Department of Health site integrates clinical opportunities and clinical research experiences in HIV prevention, sexually transmitted infection treatment, epidemiology of drug resistance in the hospital, state, and community settings.

**11. Does the Ferguson Fellowship count towards academic credit?**

The student's university/college determines if academic credit is granted for participating in the Ferguson Fellowship.

**12. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start at a later date; take time off to work)?**

All students must commit to the entire 9-week program.

**13. How does one apply to the Ferguson Fellowship program?**

The online application is available at [KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson](https://KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson)

**14. What is the best way to answer the essay questions?**

Applicants should provide logical, innovative, and referenced (if necessary) responses to the essay questions.

**15. Can students without health insurance apply to the Ferguson Fellowship program?**

Students without health insurance can apply to the Ferguson Fellowship program. All accepted students must have health insurance.

**16. Are travel and housing costs taken out the stipend?**

Housing and round-trip travel for out-of-state scholars is available. Travel and housing costs are NOT taken out of the stipend.

**17. Are meals program sponsored?**

Ferguson Fellowship provides breakfast and lunch for students during the Baltimore orientation. No other meals are program sponsored.

**18. What if my program is graded on a Pass or Fail only?**

Students who have successfully passed all courses may substitute that with a 3.0 GPA.

**19. What if my university does not provide unofficial transcripts?**

Students may request an official transcript for themselves and then upload with other application materials.

**20. Who can write my recommendation letters?**

Completion of a brief questionnaire and up to a 850-word letter of reference from two faculty at your previous or current university are required. All letters must be added to the electronic form provided to the referee. The deadline for submitting letters of recommendation is January 31.

**21. Who should recommendation letters be addressed to?**

Please address recommendation letters to the Ferguson Fellowship Selection Committee.

**22. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?**

There is a questionnaire and recommended questions to address for the letter of recommendation.

**23. When should I expect a decision letter?**

Decision letters are sent by the end of March.

**24. How many applicants are selected to participate in the Ferguson Program?**

The number of applicants varies from year to year. Slots are competitive.

**25. Where can more information on the Ferguson Fellowship program be found?**

Please visit our website, [KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson](https://KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson) for more information on the Ferguson Fellowship.

**All program activities are contingent on CDC funding.  
Address additional questions to: [Ferguson\\_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org)**