



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

1. What is Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

The Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Initiative for Student Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship (Ferguson RISE) Program is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded, 10-week summer program providing educational and professional development opportunities for fellows interested in infectious diseases, public health, mental health, maternal and child health and/or health disparities research. The overarching goal of the Ferguson RISE Fellowship is to promote diversity among future public health research leaders. Fellows may also gain clinical experience and develop leadership skills.

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

Students must:

- Be enrolled as an actively enrolled full-time graduate student in a United States college or university, i.e. enrolled in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, public health, allied health, or social sciences program during the 10-week Ferguson RISE Fellowship program.
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have the ability to commit to the length of Ferguson RISE Fellowship
- Be U.S. Citizen, U.S. Nationals, or Permanent Resident

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

Fellows receive a stipend for the 10-week summer program (visit KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson for details).

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

The Ferguson RISE Fellowship Program was designed to encourage graduate students from underrepresented populations (<http://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>) to strongly consider a career in public health research. All full-time graduate students who meet the criteria outlined in Question 2, are eligible to apply for the Ferguson RISE Fellowship.

5. Can international students participate in the Ferguson RISE 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 RISE Fellowship starts, can I apply?

Students must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student in a medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, public health, allied health, or social sciences program during the entire 10-week program.

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

The Ferguson RISE 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 CDC - Atlanta site?

Examples of past research experiences have included:

1. An HIV-related project with three components: (a) evaluation of a national dissemination project of evidence-based public health interventions; (b) development of a marketing analysis strategy to reach 1 million American women with evidence-based HIV prevention messages, and (c) development of an evidence-based distance learning curricula intervention for African American men who have sex with

men.

2. Develop and evaluate a recombinant nucleocapsid protein-based immunoassay for human coronavirus NL63 (HCoV-NL63)

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

Examples of past research experience have included:

1. The Maryland Emerging Infection Program is a national resource for surveillance, prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases in the US. Fellows may participate in activities such as disease cluster investigation, interview of research participants, development of study questions and databases, and development of web-based prevention and treatment resources.
2. Project is to compare the effectiveness of a technology-enhanced community health nursing intervention (TECH-N) intervention in treatment of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease to an optimized standard of care control group using randomized trial design.

11. Does the Ferguson RISE 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 10-week program.

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

The online application is available at 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 RISE Fellowship program?

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

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

Housing and round-trip travel funding for out-of-state scholars is available. Travel and housing costs are provided through Ferguson RISE Fellowship Funds and are NOT taken out of the stipend.

17. Are meals program sponsored?

Breakfast and lunch are provided during the Baltimore orientation and the CDC Showcase and Expo. Dinner will be provided on Memorial Day and during the CDC Showcase and Expo. Light breakfast on seminar days will be provided. 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 RISE 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 emailed the end of March.

24. How many applicants are selected to participate in the Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

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

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

Please visit our website, [KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson](https://www.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