



Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership
Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Research
Initiatives for Student Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship Program
Sample Application and Guidelines

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship Program.

THERE IS A SAMPLE APPLICATION AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

The instructions below will help you complete the application. Before opening the application link, please review these instructions and the SAMPLE application at the end of these instructions. The link to the Ferguson-RISE Fellowship Online Application is at the end of these instructions. Please note that all applications must be completed using the Online Application.

Deadline for submitting your application: January 31st, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time

Guidance for completing your application:

- Please review your application carefully. The **program STAFF will NOT make any changes to your application once submitted**. All applications are automatically dated and time-stamped. The application and letter of recommendations system will close automatically at their respective deadlines, and **we will not accept late submissions**.
- After you submit your application, you will receive 1) an automated email confirmation that your application was received, 2) an option to download your responses to PDF within that email, and 3) a link to check the status of your referees' recommendation letter submissions.
- If applying online poses a hardship, do not hesitate to get in touch with our office during business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST) before the closing date for an alternate submission method (Contact 443-923-5901; Email: Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org).
- ***Please note that all activities are contingent on the availability of federal funds, and dates are subject to change.***

Thank you again for your interest, and we look forward to reviewing your application. If you have all the necessary documents (noted below) and information ready, the application process should take roughly 30 to 45 minutes to finalize. If you do not review the documentation initially, you may need up to 2 hours to finalize.

APPLICATION LINK:

[If you are ready to complete the Ferguson-RISE Fellowship Application, PLEASE CLICK FERGUSON RISE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION HERE TO BEGIN.](#)

BELOW IS A SAMPLE APPLICATION for planning purposes ONLY!

Ferguson RISE Sample Application

We thank you for your interest in the Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership programs. We appreciate your commitment to enhancing your skills and knowledge in public health. To ensure that you have a thorough understanding of the application process and requirements, we strongly encourage you to review the APPLICATION GUIDELINES & SAMPLE APPLICATION in detail. This will provide you with the essential information needed to complete your application accurately and efficiently.

To facilitate a smooth application experience, please prepare the following materials in advance:

1. ****Resume/CV:**** A current resume or curriculum vitae that highlights your educational background, professional experience, relevant skills, volunteering, and any certifications.
2. ****Transcripts:**** Transcripts from both your undergraduate and graduate studies (if applicable). Please ensure these are up to date and reflect your most recent academic achievements.
3. ****Letters of Recommendation:**** The names and contact information for 2 to 3 faculty members or professional mentors who are familiar with your work and can provide insightful letters of recommendation. It is advisable to ask for their consent beforehand and give them ample time to prepare their letters.
4. ****Essay Questions:**** Thoughtfully crafted responses to the application essay questions provided, demonstrating your personal motivations, relevant experiences, and aspirations within the field of public health.

By preparing these materials ahead of time, you will streamline the application process and position yourself for a successful submission. Thank you again for your interest, and we look forward to reviewing your application. If you have all the necessary documents (noted above) and information ready, the application process should take roughly 30 to 45 minutes to finalize. If you do not review the documentation initially, you may need up to 2 hours to finalize.

Please note, demographic information, e.g., race, ethnicity, primary language spoken at home, accommodation status, are not visible to reviewers during the selection process.

Enabling or accepting cookies will save your progress in the Chrome browser. Cookies will afford you the opportunity to return to the Qualtrics application at a later time, if needed. With that being said, we cannot guarantee the progress will be saved as this application does not have a login feature. We suggest completing the application in one sitting. To access a saved application, you must use the same link and the same device you used to start it. For more information about what cookies are, please see the [provided link](#).

It is critical that we read *your original words* in the essays below. If you choose to use AI, other than for grammar and spell check purposes, please cite AI as a reference within the essay box. Please review your application carefully. The program STAFF will **NOT** make any changes to your application once submitted. For all programs, the application deadline is **January 31st, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST**. The application and letter of recommendations system will close automatically at their respective deadlines, and we will not accept late submissions.

Please note: All activities are contingent on the availability of federal funds.

Q2.1. To which program are you applying?*

- Ferguson RISE Fellowship

Q2.2. To which Ferguson-RISE fellowship would you like to apply?* *Please select all that apply:*

- 12-month
- Summer

Q2.6. Are you a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or U.S. National with necessary documentation? *

- U.S. Citizen (territory/freely associated state of permanent residence)

Q3.1. Does your current or latest academic program use a GPA / grading system?*

- Yes

Q3.2. Please enter your GPA as reported in your transcript, including 2 decimal points.*

3.75

Q3.3. Are you actively enrolled in an academic program?*

- Yes

Q4.1. What is your highest level of completed education?*

- Bachelor's Degree

Q4.2. What is your current academic status?*

- Master's Student

Q4.4. What is your anticipated graduation year?*

- 2029

Q4.5. What is your anticipated graduation term?*

- Spring

Q4.8. What was your undergraduate major?*

- Neuroscience

Q4.10. What is your current or completed Graduate/Professional Program?*

- Other Master's Degree

Q4.11. Please specify your graduate degree program.

Ferguson Rise Practice Application

Q4.12. I learned about the Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership Program from the following (select all that apply):*

- My University website
- Presentation at a community based organization
- College Professor
- Listserv or distribution list

Q5.1. Please enter your legal name as listed on your birth certificate, state issued ID, or driver's license.

First Name*	Ferguson Rise
Middle Name	N/A
Last Name*	Practice Application

Q5.2. Please list your preferred name, if different than the name given at birth:

Preferred First Name	N/A
Preferred Middle Name	N/A
Preferred Last Name	N/A

Q5.3. Please list your contact information:

Academic / Professional email (This email will be used if we do not receive a timely response from email to your preferred contact email.)*	Ferguson_fellowship@kennedykrieger.org
Personal email (This email will be used if we do not receive a timely response from email to your preferred contact email.)*	CenterforExcellenceNPH@kennedykrieger.org
Preferred phone number (US cell or home)*	667-205-4597
Alternate phone number (cell or home)*	667-205-4597

Q5.4. Please select your preferred email.*

This is the email we will use to communicate information about your application and program activities. This can be either your academic/professional or personal email.

- Ferguson_fellowship@kennedykrieger.org

Q5.5. Emergency Contact:*

Please enter the information of your emergency contact.

First Name:	Ferguson Fellowship
Middle Name:	N/A
Last Name:	Practice Application
Phone:	667-205-4597
Address Line 1:	716 N Broadway
Address Line 2:	N/A
City:	Baltimore
State:	MD
County:	Baltimore City
Zipcode:	21205
Country	United States

Q5.6. Please enter your local address:*

Address Line 1	716 N Broadway
Address Line 2	N/A
City	Baltimore
State	MD
County	Baltimore City
Zip	21205
Country	United States

Q5.7. Is your permanent address the same as your local address? *

- No

Q5.8. Please enter your permanent address.*

If you do not have a permanent address to report, please use your temporary or school address.

Address	716 N Broadway
Address line 2	N/A
City	Baltimore
State	MD
County	Baltimore City
Zip	21045
Country	United States

Q5.9. What is your date of birth? Please use the mm/dd/yyyy format:*

11/03/1900

Q5.10. What is your sex assigned at birth?*

- Female

Q5.11. What is your race?*

- Black or African American

Q5.12. What is your Ethnicity?*

- Not Hispanic or Latino/a

Q5.13. What is the primary language spoken at home?*

- Korean

Q5.17. Are you a First-Generation College Student?*

- No

Q5.18. Are you a first (1st) or second (2nd) generation U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?*

- N/A

Q5.19. What is your country of origin?*

United States

Q5.20. Have you ever received free or reduced price lunch benefits?*

- Yes

Q5.21. Are you Pell Grant eligible?*

- Yes

Q5.22. Do you have federal student loans?*

- Yes

Q5.23. Do you know your FAFSA EFC (Expected Family Contribution)?*

- No

Q5.25. If accepted, will you require any special accommodations? (i.e., Accessibility/Americans with Disabilities [ADA] Accommodations Considerations):*

- No

Thank you for sharing answers to the above. Our goal is to understand the needs and concerns of our scholars so that we can provide the resources that each scholar needs to thrive. This information also illustrates who our program reaches and informs recruitment efforts.

Q6.1. What is the name of your College/University?*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q6.3. What is your highest educational goal?*

- Professional Doctorate Degrees (e.g., MD/DO, PharmD, DDS, DPT, DSW)

Q6.4. What is your future career focus?*

- Unsure

Q6.5. What are your future career settings? Please choose your top 3 settings.*

- Academic
- Community
- Educational (K-12)

Q7.1.

What is your site preference for the Ferguson Program? Please click and drag to rank your top 3 choices.*

Please note, that while we will do our best to match scholars with their preferred sites, we cannot guarantee it.

- Top 3 choices:
 1. Kennedy Krieger Institute/ Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
 2. Rollins School of Public Health Emory University
 3. CDC Satellite Sites

Q7.6. Will you need housing for the Center for Excellence orientation in Baltimore?*

- Yes

Q7.7. Will you need housing for your Center for Excellence site location?*

- Yes

Q7.8. Do you have access to a vehicle that you can use during your Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership experience?

- Yes

Q7.9. On which days do you have access to a vehicle that you can use during your Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership experience? Please select all that apply.

- Tuesday
- Thursday

Q7.10. Will you need access to parking at your Center for Excellence site location?

- Yes

Q8.1. Have you attained any achievements, such as honors and/or awards?*

- Yes, I have received 2 or more honors and/or awards

Q8.2. Please briefly list the received honor(s) and/or award(s):*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q8.3. Do you have any volunteer community service experience?*

- Yes, I have volunteered between 1 to 2 years

Q8.4. Please briefly list your volunteer community service experience:*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q8.5. Have you participated in an advisory board role, club, committee, and/or community organization?*

- Yes, I have participated as a **Member**

Q8.6. Please briefly list your participation an advisory board role, club, committee, and/or community organization:*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q8.7. Have you led or collaborated on the implementation of any activities/programs in school organizations, extracurricular activities, or work/volunteer experiences?*

- Yes

Q8.8. Please briefly list your leadership roles in school organizations, extracurricular activities, or work/volunteer experiences.*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q9.1. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (PDF Format) *

Please upload your Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) in a PDF format. Be sure to include any community service/volunteering, awards/achievements, poster presentations, publications, and relevant work experience you may have.

[\[Click here\]](#)

Q9.2. University Undergraduate Transcript (PDF Format)*

Please upload your Unofficial University Transcript in a PDF format. Ensure that the transcript includes your name and the school name.

***PLEASE NOTE: AN OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE TRANSCRIPT MAY BE REQUIRED UPON ACCEPTANCE.**

[\[Click here\]](#)

Q9.3. University Graduate Transcript (PDF Format)*

Please upload your Unofficial University Graduate Transcript in a PDF format. Ensure that the transcript includes your name and the school name.

***PLEASE NOTE: AN OFFICIAL GRADUATE TRANSCRIPT MAY BE REQUIRED UPON ACCEPTANCE.**

[\[Click here\]](#)

Q11.1. Describe what has shaped your academic and professional goals in Public Health (250 word maximum).*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q11.2. In your academic, professional, or volunteer portfolio, how have situational and contextual factors related to health impacted the prevention, treatment, and control of infectious diseases or other health conditions? (250 word maximum)*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q11.3. What public health challenge are you most concerned about, and how have you worked in your school or community to address that challenge? (500 word maximum)*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q11.4. Provide a research plan to address an emerging public health challenge that integrates Advanced Molecular Detection or Wastewater Surveillance strategies. Include a community engagement or health promotion component in your plan.

Please note, if you are selected for the fellowship, your actual research project will be determined by your research mentor in collaboration with you. (500 word maximum)*

Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Referee Information

Two recommendation forms from faculty at your previous or current university are required as part of your application. ***The recommendation MUST be on professional letterhead.*** An email will be automatically sent to each referee with instructions on how to submit a recommendation on your behalf. All recommendations must be completed using the electronic form provided to each referee.

Q12.2. Referee 1*

Please enter the contact information for your first referee.

Honorific (e.g., Dr., Ms., Mr., etc.)	Dr.
First Name	Ferguson Rise
Last Name	Sample Application
Academic or Research Email Address	CenterforExcellenceNPH@kennedykrieger.org
Institution/University	Ferguson Rise Sample Application
Title/Position	Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q12.3. Referee 2*

Please enter the contact information for your second referee.

Honorific (e.g., Dr., Ms., Mr., etc.)	Dr.
First Name	Ferguson Rise
Last Name	Sample Application
Academic or Research Email Address	Ferguson_fellowship@kennedykrieger.org
Institution/University	Ferguson Rise Sample Application
Title/Position	Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q12.4. Referee 3 (Optional)

If desired, please enter the contact information for a third referee.

Honorific (e.g., Dr., Ms., Mr., etc.)	Ms.
First Name	Ferguson Rise Sample Application
Last Name	Ferguson Rise Sample Application
Academic or Research Email Address	Ferguson_fellowship@kennedykrieger.org
Institution/University	Ferguson Rise Sample Application
Title/Position	Ferguson Rise Sample Application

Q13.1. Do you agree to be contacted to evaluate summer public health leadership programs?*

- No

Please note that the information collected in this application has a dual purpose. First, information you provide via this survey is required by the funding agency for scholar selection and program evaluation. Second, after receiving your permission, information you provide will be used for research purposes (i.e., to test hypotheses about the effectiveness of program curricula and activities). Participation in this research is voluntary.

Your permission (or lack of permission) in this research will have no effect on your current or future relationship with the Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

You may cancel your permission to use your information for research at any time by contacting Dr. Harolyn Belcher (CenterforExcellenceNPH@kennedykrieger.org). Your cancellation will not affect information already collected.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutional Review Board. IRB00398423
PI Harolyn Belcher

Q13.3. I agree that the information provided in this survey can be used for research in aggregate and de-identified (or limited, e.g., dates maybe used) format.*

- No

Q13.4. By providing your signature in the box, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of your ability. Further, please understand that you are waiving your right to request that the Center for Excellence in Public Health Leadership send a copy of your referees' recommendations to you. *

[\[Click here\]](#)

Q14.1. Please rate how *interested* you are in the following *research areas*, with no more than 5 Most Interested selections.*

<i>Advanced Molecular Detection</i>	Very Interested
<i>Bioinformatics</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this research area.
<i>Child Maltreatment</i>	Interested
<i>Clinical Research</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Community-Based Participatory Research</i>	Not Interested
<i>Developmental Disabilities</i>	Interested
<i>Emergency Preparedness</i>	Interested
<i>Epidemiology</i>	Interested
<i>Genomics/Genomic Epidemiology</i>	Very Interested
<i>Health Promotion</i>	Very Interested
<i>Infectious Diseases</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this research area.
<i>Laboratory Science</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this research area.
<i>Mental Health/ Substance Abuse</i>	Not Interested
<i>Public Health Communications</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Public Health Economics</i>	Not Interested
<i>Public Health Education</i>	Very Interested
<i>Public Health Informatics</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Public Health Policy</i>	Interested
<i>Waste Water Surveillance</i>	Very Interested
<i>Not Listed Above, Describe</i>	Not Interested

Q14.2. Please rate how *interested* you are in using the *following skills* during your Ferguson Fellowship.*

<i>Advanced Molecular Detection</i>	Very Interested
<i>Bioinformatic Workflows</i>	Interested
<i>Biostatistics</i>	Very Interested
<i>Cell Culture</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Descriptive statistics</i>	Interested
<i>DNA sequencing</i>	Very Interested
<i>Economics</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this skill.
<i>Epidemiologic Data Visualization</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this skill.
<i>Epidemiology</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this skill.
<i>Genomics/Molecular Epidemiology</i>	Very Interested
<i>Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (e.g., ArcGIS)</i>	Interested
<i>Health, Life Sciences, or Social Sciences Informatics</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Integration of Laboratory and Epidemiologic Data or Data Visualization</i>	Not Interested
<i>Laboratory Science Protocols</i>	Slightly Interested
<i>Literature Review</i>	Interested
<i>PCR</i>	Very Interested
<i>Policy</i>	Most Interested - I am applying specifically to use this skill.
<i>Statistical Software Packages</i>	Very Interested
<i>Survey design</i>	Interested

Q14.3. For each of the items listed below, please indicate your level of proficiency based on your education, research and/or work experience.*

Scale:

1- Very Limited: *I have minimal experience with this software or technique.*

2- Basic User: *I have basic skills but only for simple tasks.*

3- Moderate User: *I am comfortable with this application or technique and can navigate most functions independently.*

4- Advanced User: *I have extensive experience with this technique or software and can troubleshoot most issues independently.*

5- Expert User: *I am highly proficient in using this software or technique and have trained colleagues.*

No Experience

Bioinformatic Workflows	No Experience
Biostatistics	No Experience
Descriptive Statistics	No Experience
Economics	No Experience
Epidemiologic Data Visualization	No Experience
Epidemiology	2- Basic User
Genomics/Molecular Epidemiology	No Experience
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (e.g., ArcGIS)	5- Expert User
Health, Life Sciences, or Social Sciences Informatics	No Experience
Integration of Laboratory and Epidemiologic Data or Data Visualization	No Experience
Laboratory Protocols (e.g. Advanced Molecular Detection, PCR, Cell Culture, DNA Sequencing, etc.)	3- Moderate User
Literature Review	No Experience
Statistical Software Packages	1- Very Limited
Survey Design	No Experience

Q14.4. Please indicate the statistical software(s) in which you are proficient. Select all that apply.*

- STATA

Carefully review your application for accuracy prior to submitting your application. The Program Office will not make revisions to your application once it is submitted.

If you DO NOT receive an Email confirmation following the submission of your application, please contact:

Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org

Application QR Code:



SAMPLE