Postdoctoral Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory

The LANL Postdoctoral (Postdoc) Program offers the opportunity for appointees to perform research in a scientifically rich research and development environment; present and publish research and contribute to the research efforts at the Laboratory, the advancement of knowledge in the areas of basic and applied research, and the strengthening of our national scientific and technical capabilities.

Postdocs enhance the Laboratory’s scientific and technical vitality by:

• Sharing new ideas and approaches.
• Challenging colleagues to work at the cutting edge.
• Making available the most current university research endeavors.
• Broadening contacts with the external scientific community.
• Forming communication links between the Laboratory, universities, and industry.

Postdoctoral Appointments

All sponsored postdoc candidates are reviewed and selected by the Laboratory’s Postdoc Committee. Initial appointments are two years, renewable for a third. Most candidates will be offered a Postdoc Research Associate appointment. In addition, each year approximately 28 Director’s Postdoc Fellows and as many as five Distinguished Postdoc Fellow appointments are awarded.

Sponsorship and Eligibility

To be considered for a Los Alamos Postdoc appointment, candidates must be nominated and sponsored by a member of the Lab’s technical staff. To identify a potential sponsor, the technical directorates, divisions, and programs of the Laboratory can be reviewed at www.lanl.gov. In addition, potential sponsors can be met by networking at conferences and workshops, reviewing journal articles, and attending university recruiting events.

Technical staff review postdoctoral CVs and directly contact candidates that are a strong match for their research. Candidates may apply for a postdoctoral position within five years of receiving their PhD and being considered by the Postdoctoral Committee, or will have completed all PhD requirements by commencement of appointment. Requests for exceptions will be considered based on extenuating circumstances. For more information, please visit the LANL web pages at www.lanl.gov. For information about the Postdoctoral Program visit www.lanl.gov/postdocs.

Salary and Benefits

Current salary guidelines start at $92,000 and are based on years since completion of PhD. Starting salary for Distinguished Postdocs is $120,000. A generous and comprehensive benefits package is included for all postdoc appointments.

Awards and Prizes

• Distinguished Postdoc Performance Award
• Postdoctoral Publication Prize in Actinide Sciences, Clean Energy, Engineering Sciences, Experimental Sciences, and Theoretical Physics.
Types of Appointments

- **Postdoctoral Research Associates** pursue research as part of ongoing LANL science and engineering programs. Sponsored postdoctoral candidate packages are reviewed by the Postdoctoral Committee throughout the year.

- **Director’s Postdoctoral Fellows** collaborate with Los Alamos scientists and engineers on staff-initiated research. Candidates are selected based on the strengths of their academic and research accomplishments as well as the strength of their proposed research. Sponsored candidate packages will be considered during each quarterly meeting.

- **Agnew National Security Postdoctoral Fellows** pursue cutting-edge experimental, theoretical, computational science, and engineering research aligned with the national security mission. Sponsored candidate packages will be reviewed during the May quarterly meeting.*

- **Information Science & Technology (ISTI) Postdoctoral Fellows** pursue cutting-edge research in data science and artificial intelligence infrastructure as well as computational and data integrity. Initial appointment is for two years and is funded through ISTI. Sponsored candidate packages will be considered during each quarterly meeting.

- **Mark Kac Postdoctoral Fellows in Applied Mathematics** pursue cutting-edge research in DOE-relevant areas of applied mathematics. Up to one Fellowship will be selected each year. The DOE Office of Applied Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) and the Center for Nonlinear Studies (CNLS) jointly sponsor these appointments. Appointments are for two years and full funding will be provided. Sponsored candidate packages will be considered during the May Quarterly Review.

- **Chick Keller Postdoctoral Fellows** pursue cutting-edge experimental, theoretical, computational, and engineering research covering one of the four Center for Space and Earth Science (CSES) Science Disciplines: Astrophysics and Cosmology, Space Science, Solid Earth Geoscience, and Climate Science. Sponsored candidate packages will be considered during the May and December quarterly meetings.

- **Nicholas C. Metropolis Postdoctoral Fellows** are provided the opportunity to pursue cutting-edge research in the areas of computational and computer science, physics, and engineering. Under the Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC) Program, computer simulation capabilities are developed to support the stockpile stewardship program together with broader national nuclear security needs. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to use the most powerful supercomputers in the world to perform pioneering research in these disciplines. Sponsored candidate packages will be reviewed during the February quarterly meeting.*

Distinguished Postdoctoral Appointments

Candidates must display extraordinary ability in scientific research and show clear promise of becoming outstanding leaders with the ability to establish new capabilities. These fellowships provide the opportunity for recipients to collaborate with Los Alamos scientists and engineers on staff-initiated research. Appointments are three years. Sponsored candidate packages are reviewed during the December quarterly meeting.

- **Richard P. Feynman (RPF) in Theory and Computing**
  This Fellowship, named after the famed theoretical physicist and winner of the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics, recognizes individuals whose research is in theory or computing.*

- **Darleane Christian Hoffman (DCH)**
  This fellow appointment, named after the distinguished Los Alamos nuclear scientist and recipient of the U.S. National Medal of Science, recognizes, encourages, and rewards outstanding scientific and engineering contributions by women.

- **J. Robert Oppenheimer (JRO)**
  This Fellowship, named after the Laboratory’s first Director, recognizes individuals whose research aligns with the Laboratory’s mission.

- **Frederick Reines (FR) in Experimental Sciences**
  This Fellowship, named after the former Los Alamos researcher who won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Physics, recognizes individuals whose research is in experimental sciences.*

*Open to those who have the ability to obtain a DOE “Q” Security Clearance, which usually requires U.S. citizenship