

**U.S. GEMINI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR 2007-2008 CYCLE
30 June 2006**

Contact

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U.S. GEMINI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

30 June 2006

A. Overview

U.S. Gemini Fellowships provide South American students and educators from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile with opportunities to study, conduct independent research, work, and teach in the United States at universities and similar research institutions of their choice, including the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory and the NOAO Gemini Science Center.

The program's goal is to strengthen science in South American Gemini countries. Participants benefit from their research concentration during their stay abroad and from participating fully in the academic and professional life of the host institution. Host institutions benefit from the presence of bright, highly motivated researchers.

Applications for fellowship grants will be submitted for endorsement to the designated national contact in the Gemini country from which the candidate has applied. Selected applications will be forwarded to AURA via the NOAO Gemini Science Center for evaluation by a peer group. Selection is contingent upon acceptance of the candidate by a U.S. host institution. (See item B.2.)

AURA requests a financial contribution from South American resources on behalf of each applicant. Priority will be given to proposals that identify such cost sharing from a South American source. AURA expects applicants to return to teaching, research, or technology development positions in South America upon completion of the fellowship visit.

Research experiences are provided for an annual stipend of up to \$36,000 with limited additional support for related items. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the primary source of funding.

Program terms and application procedures are described below.

B. Terms

1. *Eligibility*

Applicants must have received a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral-level research degree in astronomy, physics, or a related discipline on or before January 1, 2007. Applicants who have not yet formally received their degree must present evidence of having completed the academic requirements before commencing the fellowship.

Fellowships under this program are open to English-speaking citizens of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, or national origin.

2. Host Institution

Contingent upon the availability of funding from NSF, fellowships are awarded through grants to host institutions. The Appendix (Research Activities Summary) contains abstracts describing research opportunities of those institutions that have expressed interest in participating in the U.S. Gemini Fellowship Program. The choice of a host institution is not limited to this list. Any scientific, nonprofit U.S. organization where Gemini-related science can be successfully carried out is eligible.

Each applicant should propose a ranked ordering of three (3) U.S. institutions at which he/she would like to carry out his/her fellowship. Selections should be suitably justified in the application proposal.

Each fellow is expected to use the award at his/her designated first choice (highest priority) host institution. All fellows *must* use his/her award at one of the three institutions named on the original application. No more than one fellow will be approved for any single institution.

Fellows will carry out full-time study and/or research programs and will be in residence at the proposed host institution during the full fellowship year.

3. Stipend

The stipend for a fellow will be \$18,000 to \$36,000 per year depending upon career status. The grant will also provide limited amounts for fringe benefits, health insurance, relocation and travel expenses, publication costs, and materials and supplies.

4. Duration of Fellowship

Each fellowship is for two years contingent upon the availability of NSF funds.

C. Application Procedure

1. General Information

Awards to individuals are made on the basis of a review of the applicant's research proposal as well as the curriculum vitae, list of publications, summary of previous and current research endeavors, and three (3) letters of reference. In addition, the applicant is expected to detail his/her career plans to return to his/her home country at the conclusion of the fellowship visit and to identify cost-sharing from a South American source. Application packages must be submitted in English.

2. Application Deadline

The deadline for application submission to the Gemini national contacts listed in item C.6. is 15 September 2006. All application materials, including those not sent directly by the applicant, must be received in those offices by this date. Applications received after this date may not be considered. Selected applications will be forwarded to the U.S. Gemini Fellowship Office by 31 October 2006.

3. Material Submitted Directly by the Applicant

- a. Application form (provided)
- b. One-page statement of career plans upon return to South America
- c. Curriculum vitae
- d. Publications list
- e. Summary of previous and current research, limited to one (1) page
- f. Research proposal (described in item 4. below)
- g. Cost proposal
- i. requested stipend
 - ii. relocation costs
 - iii. health insurance
 - iv. proposed other expenses
 - v. amount and source of cost-sharing (from South American source)

Each applicant must submit these documents. Each item should be self-contained (separate) and provided in the same order as listed herein.

4. Research Proposal

Each applicant must formulate a specific research plan that is related to planned Gemini science and technology and is generally compatible with the research activities of the proposed host institutions. **The proposal should state the relevance to planned Gemini science and technology.** It should be no more than five (5) pages in length, exclusive of references and figures.

5. Materials Submitted by Others

- i. Letters of recommendation from three (3) sources.

Applicants should arrange for letters of reference to be submitted by the three individuals who are most familiar with the scientific abilities and who are listed on the standard application form. These letters should be submitted directly to the Gemini national contact in their home country (see item C.6.)

- ii. A signed letter of acceptance from an authorizing official of the first-choice Host Institution (original copy); this letter should endorse the applicant's research proposal.

Applicants should arrange for this letter to be submitted directly to the Gemini national contact in their home country (see item C.6.).

6. Where to Apply

Each applicant should forward his/her application package to the Gemini national contact located in his/her home country as indicated below:

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|-----------|--|
| Argentina | Dr. Guillermo Bosch
Facultad de Ciencias Astronómicas y Geofísicas
Universidad Nacional de La Plata
Paseo del Bosque s/n
1900 La Plata
Argentina
telephone: (54-221) 4236593; fax: (54-221) 4236591
e-mail: guille@fcaglp.unlp.edu.ar |
| Brazil | Dr. Maximiliano Faúndez-Abans
Laboratorio Nacional de Astrofísica
Rua Estados Unidos, 154
Bairro das Nações
CEP 37504-364
Itajubá - MG
telephone.: (+)55-35/3623-1500; Fax: (+)55-35/3623-2535
e-mail: mfaundez@lna.br |
| Chile | Dr. Luis Campusano
Director Programa Gemini
CONICYT
Maria Luisa Santander 572
Casilla 297-V
Santiago, Chile
telephone: (56-2) 365-4441; fax: (56-2) 365-4612
e-mail: lcampusa@conicyt.cl |

D. Additional Information

1. Review Process

Final evaluation rests with AURA via the NOAO Gemini Science Center through peer review. Applications will be reviewed first by the Gemini national contact listed in item C.6. The applications from each Gemini country will be forwarded to the U.S. Gemini Fellowship Program Administrator for review by a peer review panel. Reviews are conducted annually.

The NOAO Gemini Science Center will announce the fellowship candidates by 15 December 2006, following the completion of the review process. Candidates will have two weeks during which to accept or decline the fellowship.

2. Commencement of Fellowship

The fellowship will normally begin on 1 September.

3. Visa Requirements

Applicants who are offered awards must have valid visas for the duration of the appointment.

4. Taxes and Insurance

The host institution and the individual fellow are responsible for complying with matters related to income and any other taxes.

A health insurance program must be provided by the host institution for the fellow. Funding for this purpose may be requested in the budget consistent with the host institution policies on this matter.

It is the responsibility of the fellow to become familiar with the policies of the host institution concerning these matters.

5. Publication

Publication in refereed journals is highly encouraged.

Fellows should identify themselves as U.S. Gemini Fellows and should acknowledge the fellowship grant as follows:

"Support for this work was provided by the National Science Foundation through grant #_____ from the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under NSF cooperative agreement AST-0132798."

6. Requests for Information should be directed to:

Verne Smith
U.S. Gemini Fellowship Program Administrator
NOAO Gemini Science Center
c/o Sally Adams
950 N. Cherry Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
e-mail: vsmith@noao.edu

U.S. GEMINI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Timeline Summary

Announcement of Opportunity issue date	30 June 2006
Application deadline to Gemini national contacts	15 September 2006
Reference letters deadline	15 September 2006
Letter of acceptance deadline	15 September 2006
Application deadline from Gemini national contacts	31 October 2006
Notification to awardees	15 December 2006
Acceptance deadline by awardees	15 January 2007
Fellowship terms start	1 September 2007

The U.S. Gemini Fellowship Program is administered by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA) for the U.S. National Science Foundation under cooperative agreement AST-0132798.