



**NBAF Scientist
Training Program**

**Foreign Animal
Disease Diagnostic
Laboratory**

**Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service**

**Plum Island Animal
Disease Center
P.O Box 848
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March 23, 2020

NSTP Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in participating in the USDA APHIS National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) Scientist Training Program (NSTP). The NSTP will accept applications for the upcoming 2020 Fall semester through June 1. As with past application cycles, we are soliciting applications from current DVM/PhD, PhD, and MS graduate students. There are limited NSTP fellowships remaining for DVM/PhD students; we strongly encourage students in terminal MS and PhD programs to apply. These positions will help fill vital roles in the successful execution of the APHIS mission at the new NBAF facility.

The purpose of NSTP is to develop a new generation of transboundary and emerging animal disease scientists to support the expanded APHIS mission at the NBAF facility in Manhattan, Kansas. NSTP will provide funding to highly qualified graduate students, and in turn, will require the recipients to fulfill a service commitment with APHIS. Through our partnerships with esteemed universities in the animal health and agriculture disciplines, we expect to attract bright, motivated scientists with a keen interest in a long-term career with APHIS at NBAF. Your input, as experts in your fields and as mentors of your students, will be critical in the application review process. We will rely on you to assist us in selecting the students most appropriate for the program and the most likely to contribute a strong foundation at NBAF.

The other attachments include the following documents:

- (i) Overview of the APHIS NSTP;
- (ii) NSTP application to be filled out by the student;
- (iii) Evaluation rubric to be completed by faculty mentors for each student applying to the program,

The next page includes a summary of instructions for submission. We know that ranking your students may be challenging, but the NSTP is implemented as a partnership between USDA APHIS and our university partners. Your input provides necessary and valuable insight for us.

Please reach out to the NSTP office with any questions regarding the application process at NSTP@usda.gov. We would be pleased to organize a teleconference with interested students and faculty. The deadline for the Fall 2020 application cycle is June 1, 2020.

We look forward to meeting your students.

Best regards,

Kimberly Dodd, DVM PhD
Director, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Director, NBAF Scientist Training Program
National Veterinary Services Laboratories



Instructions for Submission of NSTP Application Packets

Each student application should include:

- A completed NSTP application form (be sure to include estimated graduation date)
- Current CV
- Letter of interest written by the student (this should address applicant's suitability for the APHIS mission specifically)
- 3 Letters of recommendation
- Completed rubric evaluation form completed by university staff. ***Please note the ranking designation in the bottom right corner.** We are asking the universities to rank their student submissions in an effort to assist the NSTP office with overall application evaluations.

The deadline for application submissions for the fall semester is June 1, 2020. Submissions may be submitted electronically to NSTP@usda.gov. Please list your name, university and total # of students applying in your subject line.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding the application process.

NSTP@usda.gov

Alexa Bracht- NSTP Coordinator

Dr. Jamie Barnabei- NSTP Program Manager

Dr. Kimberly Dodd- NSTP Director