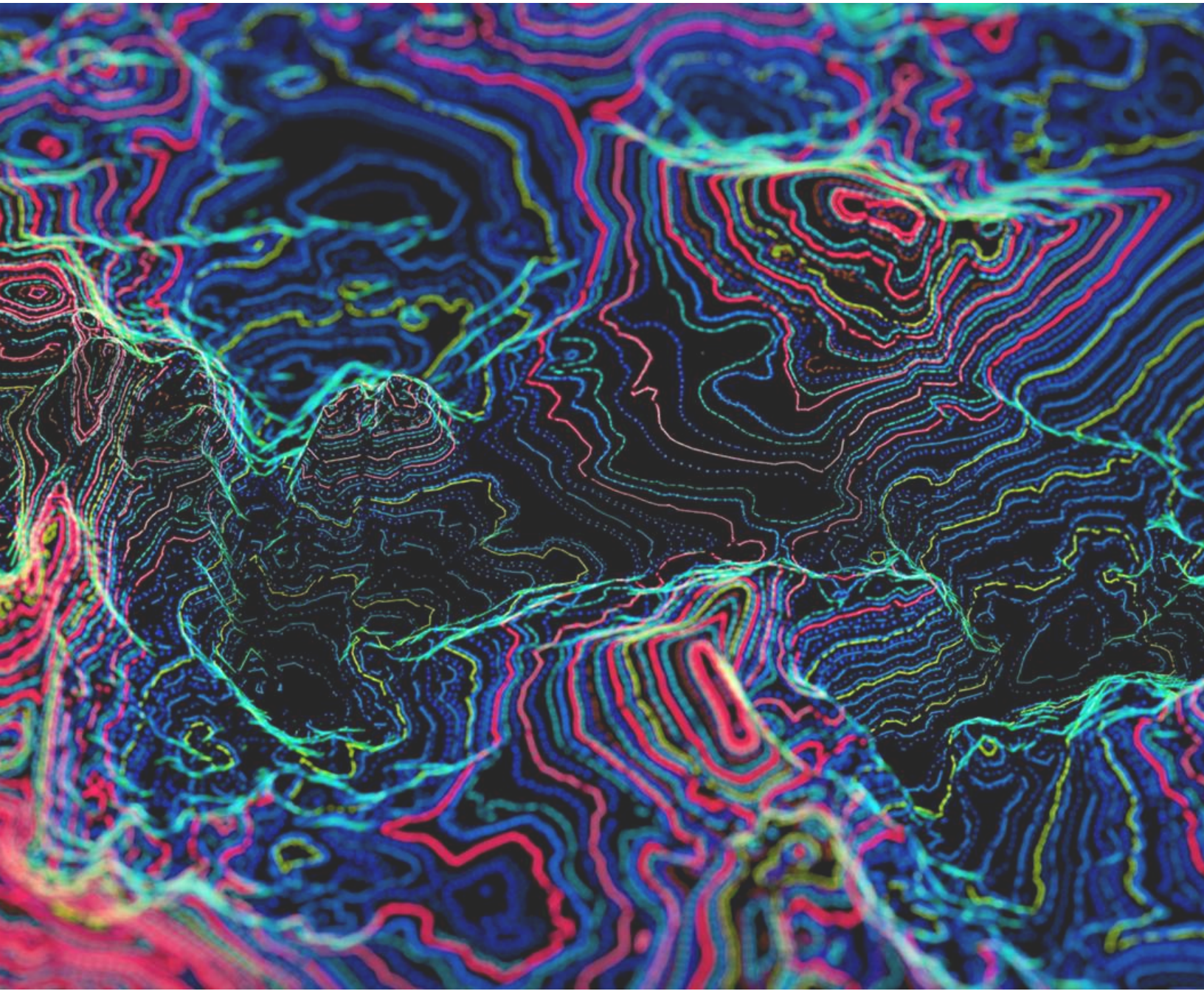
NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GLOBAL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (GCERF)



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

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PURPOSE

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are accepting applications for the Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF), a pilot fellowship designed to support early- and mid-career U.S.-based researchers to conduct collaborative climate and environmental research with international host institutions.

GCERF will place selected fellows in residence at leading research institutions in India for three to six months. Fellows will work with host institution mentors and research teams on joint research activities while building the skills, networks, and experience needed to collaborate effectively across international research environments.

The fellowship has three primary goals:

- Advance climate and environmental research by aligning fellow expertise with host institution priorities to support bidirectional knowledge exchange, joint exploration of scientific questions, and development of new research directions.

- Elevate and sustain the careers of outstanding climate and environmental researchers by strengthening their capacity to engage globally and expanding access to perspectives, opportunities, and networks that advance their research and increase the visibility of their work.

- Foster sustained international collaboration among researchers and institutions in the United States and other countries through in-residence research collaborations and relationship-building across global research networks.

The inaugural GCERF cycle will serve as a pilot to refine the fellowship model, strengthen relationships with host institutions, assess fellow and host support needs, and inform potential future expansion.

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE

For the pilot cycle, applicants will apply for placement with pre-vetted host institutions and research themes. Placements will be available at three host institutions in India:

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)

The following host institution placement descriptions provide an overview of available research projects and opportunities, desired fellow expertise, and relevant placement information. Applicants are encouraged to review these descriptions when selecting their research opportunities and preparing their applications.

- Placement Description – IIT Bombay
- Placement Description – IIT Kanpur
- Placement Description – IIT Madras

Fellowship components are expected to include:

- A pre-departure orientation focused on cohort building, program expectations, research planning, travel and relocation preparation, and cross-cultural research collaboration.
- A three- to six-month in-residence research collaboration at the selected host institution.
- Regular cohort virtual calls for peer learning, professional development, community building, and shared problem-solving.
- A closing convening or program reflection at the conclusion of the fellowship cycle.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

GCERF is intended for outstanding early- to mid-career U.S.-based researchers working in climate, environmental sciences, or closely related fields who are prepared to conduct collaborative research in an international setting.

Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must hold a terminal research degree (PhD or equivalent) and be within 15 years of receiving that degree. Degree must be awarded after December 1, 2011.
- Current students are not eligible.
- Applicants must be actively focused on research in climate, environmental sciences, or a closely related field.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents and have primary residence is in the United States.
- Applicants must be able to participate fully in the fellowship and reside in the host country for the duration of their placement.
- Applicants must be able to secure any required home institution or employer approvals, visas, work authorizations, research clearances, security approvals, or host institution approvals before beginning their placement.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to maintain a professional affiliation with a U.S.-based institution or organization during the fellowship period.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT AND PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Residency Length	3–6 months; maximum fellowship residency of six months and a minimum of three months
Placement Location	India; pilot placements at IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, and IIT Madras.
Fellowship Stipend	A fellowship stipend of up to USD $6000/month for a maximum of 6 months will be provided to selected participants. Stipends will be paid to fellow's U.S. bank account. If the applicant will be receiving salary (partial or full), the fellowship amount may be adjusted accordingly.
Travel	The National Academies will cover approved travel to the host institution at the beginning of the fellowship and return travel upon completion. Any additional travel support will be provided at the discretion of the National Academies, subject to applicable travel policies.
Visa Fees	National Academies will provide support for fellow visa fees; host institutions will provide documentation and support for the applicable researcher visa process.
Insurance	The program will provide health insurance coverage, including travel and emergency medical coverage, for fellows during their placement. In addition, host institutions will provide or facilitate access to local routine and emergency medical care.
Housing / Local Support	Host institutions will provide housing at no cost to fellows, along with local onboarding and support throughout their placement.
Professional Development	Up to $3,000 per fellow will be available, subject to National Academies approval, for eligible professional development activities that advance fellowship goals. These may include participation in conferences, trainings and other relevant professional opportunities.
Employment Status	Fellows are not employees of the National Academies or host institution by virtue of the fellowship placement.

KEY DATES

RFA Released	November 18, 2026
Application Deadline	February 1, 2027| 11:59 p.m.
Eligibility Review	February 2027
External Review	February - March 2027
Host Institution Review / Matching	March - April 2027
Interviews	April – May 2027
Selection Notifications	June 2027
Fellow Intake / Visa Preparation	May - July 2027
Pre-Departure Orientation	July – August 2027
Fellow Departures	Rolling, August 2027
Placements Complete	No later than end of March 2028

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Applicants are encouraged to review the application guidelines, required materials, and review criteria before beginning their applications. Detailed application questions and instructions are provided in **Appendix A**, and the fellowship review criteria are outlined in **Appendix B**.

Applications can be submitted through our online application system starting on November 18, 2026. The application cycle will close Feb 1, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. All application materials must be submitted in English through the online system. Applications submitted by email, mail, or other means will not be accepted

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT PROCESS

The fellowship selection process is expected to include the following stages:

- **Phase 1:** National Academies staff will review applications to confirm eligibility.
- **Phase 2:** All eligible applications reviewed by external reviewers according to selection criteria rubric.
- **Phase 3:** Top applications shared with host institutions for assessment of technical alignment and fit for available projects.
- **Phase 4:** Top ranked applicants may participate in interviews with host institutions and National Academies staff.

- **Phase 5:** Final placements and selection decisions.

The National Academies reserves the right to select all, some, one, or none of the applicants received in response to this RFA and may request additional or clarifying information as needed during the selection and placement process.

FELLOW APPOINTMENT AND PRE-DEPARTURE

Selection for the fellowship is contingent on completion of all required appointment, placement, travel, and compliance steps. Following selection, fellows will work with National Academies staff and host institution counterparts to finalize placement timing, research plans, visa documentation, housing and local logistics, travel, insurance, and institutional onboarding requirements.

Host institutions will support fellows with visa documentation and host-country processes, local onboarding, access to research facilities and resources, health-care navigation, housing arrangements, and other on-site needs as specified in the applicable host agreement.

Fellows are responsible for obtaining any required home institution or employer approvals, work authorizations, research clearances, or security approvals before beginning their placement.

Selected fellows will participate in a pre-departure orientation before beginning their residency.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD AND PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

During the in-residence placement, fellows are expected to work full-time, in-person and continuously in their assigned placement at the host institution. Fellows must comply with applicable host institution policies and requirements, including policies related to research conduct, workplace conduct, health and safety, information technology, laboratory access, and other relevant institutional requirements.

Fellows are also expected to participate in reasonable National Academies program activities, including regular check-ins, cohort calls, professional development opportunities, and program evaluation activities. Data may be collected throughout the fellowship lifecycle through application materials, onboarding and check-in questionnaires, regular meetings with fellows and hosts, and offboarding feedback.

Research outputs, publications, presentations, or other products resulting from the placement will be handled in accordance with applicable host institution policies and any additional written arrangements. Fellows should appropriately acknowledge GCERF, the National Academies, the host institution, and relevant funders or collaborators as instructed by the program.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

The National Academies is committed to the highest standards of scientific integrity, research conduct, and professional behavior. Fellows are expected to conduct fellowship activities responsibly and in accordance with applicable National Academies requirements, host institution policies, research ethics standards, and relevant laws and regulations.

Participation in GCERF does not create an employment relationship between the fellow and the National Academies or host institution by virtue of the fellowship placement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

General Information

1. **What is GCERF?**

GCERF is a pilot National Academies program that places early- and mid-career U.S.-based researchers at international host institutions for three- to six-month in-residence fellowships in climate and environmental research.

2. **Where will fellows be placed?**

The inaugural cycle is expected to include placements at IIT Bombay (Mumbai), IIT Kanpur (Kanpur), and IIT Madras (Chennai) in India.

3. **How many fellows will be selected?**

The National Academies currently anticipates selecting approximately eight fellows across the three host institutions, subject to available funding, host capacity, and placement fit.

Eligibility

4. **What are the degree requirements for applicants?**

Applicants must hold a terminal research degree (PhD or equivalent) awarded after December 1, 2011. Applicants must be within 15 years of receiving their degree at the time of application.

Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for applicants who have experienced significant career interruptions or extenuating circumstances, such as caregiving responsibilities, parental leave, medical leave, or military service. Exceptions are not guaranteed and are subject to program review and approval.

5. **Are postdoctoral researchers eligible?**

Yes. Postdoctoral researchers are eligible, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

6. **Can current students apply?**

No. Applicants must have completed their terminal research degree before applying. Current students are not eligible.

7. **What research fields are eligible?**

Applicants must be actively engaged in research related to climate, environmental sciences, or a closely related field.

8. **Do I need to remain employed by a U.S. institution during the fellowship?**

No. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to maintain a professional affiliation with a U.S.-based institution or organization. Any employment or leave arrangements are the responsibility of the fellow and their employer.

9. **Can I apply if I currently live outside the United States?**

Yes. U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents who are temporarily residing outside the United States, including in India, may apply, provided their primary residence remains in the United States and they meet all other fellowship eligibility requirements.

Placement and Application

10. **Do I need to identify my own host institution?**

No. The RFA will feature pre-vetted host institutions and research themes to choose from. Applicants will apply based on alignment with those opportunities.

11. **Will I need a fully developed research proposal?**

The current program design anticipates that applicants will describe their research interests, proposed collaboration, and alignment with host opportunities, with detailed placement plans refined after matching and selection.

12. **Will host institutions participate in selection?**

Yes. Host institutions will provide input on candidate fit, technical alignment, and placement feasibility and are expected to participate in ranking and interviews. Final fellowship award decisions remain with the National Academies.

Financial and Logistical Support

13. Will fellows receive a stipend?

Yes. A fellowship stipend of up to 6000 USD/month for a maximum of 6 months will be provided to selected participants. If the applicant will be receiving salary (partial or full) from their home institution, the fellowship amount will be adjusted accordingly.

14. Is cost-sharing allowed?

Yes. Cost-sharing is encouraged. It may include financial or in-kind contributions from a fellow's home institution or employer, such as such as backfilling the current position and maintaining current salary during leave, partial salary support, and other institutional contributions. Cost-sharing will not factor into the merit review of applications.

15. Will my fellowship stipend be affected if I continue receiving a salary from my home institution or employer?

Fellows who continue to receive a full or partial salary from their home institution or employer during the fellowship may receive an adjusted stipend. Receiving a salary does not affect your eligibility to apply.

As part of the application, applicants who are currently employed or affiliated with an institution will be asked to submit a letter of support outlining any anticipated leave, sabbatical, employment arrangements, and financial or other institutional support available during the fellowship.

The National Academies will review this information when determining stipend amounts, taking into account individual circumstances and any continued salary or institutional support. Any stipend adjustments will be communicated to selected fellows before they accept their fellowship awards.

16. Who pays for travel and visa costs?

The National Academies expects to support approved fellowship travel and visa fees, subject to program policies. Host institutions will support the documentation and processes needed for the applicable visa. Fellows are responsible for taking the steps necessary to obtain their visa and travel.

17. What support will be available for housing, health care, and local logistics?

Host institutions will be supporting local housing and facilitate access to meals and health care.

18. **Can dependents accompany a fellow?**

Yes. Fellows may choose to bring spouses or dependents during their fellowship placement. However, fellows are responsible for determining the feasibility of these arrangements and coordinating any associated logistics, including housing, visas, insurance, schooling or childcare, and other needs. The program will provide general guidance on relevant considerations, but arrangements for accompanying family members will be the responsibility of the fellow.

19. **How will intellectual property (IP) and research outputs be handled during the fellowship?**

Research outputs, publications, and intellectual property (IP) considerations will be guided by applicable host and home institutions' policies and any additional written arrangements. Where relevant, specific IP considerations will be discussed with fellows and host institutions on a case-by-case basis to support a clear understanding of expectations before the placement begins.

20. **When will placements begin?**

The current working timeline anticipates rolling departures beginning in summer 2027, based on visa procurement, host readiness, and the agreed timing of each fellow-host placement.

21. **When must placements be completed?**

Pilot placements are expected to be completed no later than March 31st, 2028.

Additional Information

22. **Who can I contact with questions?**

For any questions related to this opportunity, please reach out to gcerf@nas.edu.

Appendix A: Eligibility and Application Questions

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS:

Please review the eligibility criteria here and complete the screening task below to determine whether you meet the eligibility requirements for this fellowship.

Before beginning the eligibility questions, please tell us how you learned about this fellowship. This information helps us improve our outreach and does not affect your eligibility or application review.

How did you hear about this fellowship opportunity? (Please pick all that applies):

- NASEM website
- NASEM email or listserv
- Non-NASEM email or listserv, please specify: _____
- Conference or Professional Society Meeting, please specify: _____
- University department, research office or Colleague
- Social media, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

1. **Do you hold a terminal research degree (PhD or equivalent) awarded on or after December 1, 2011?**
    - Yes
    - No
    - No, due to significant career interruption or extenuating circumstances

If you select "No, due to significant career interruption or extenuating circumstances", please provide any additional information relevant to your eligibility for the program. This information will only be used to assess eligibility considerations.

Examples of significant career interruptions or extenuating circumstances may include caregiving responsibilities, parental leave, medical leave, military service obligations, or other comparable situations that materially affected your professional timeline.

The program will consider this information as part of its eligibility review process; however, eligibility exceptions are not guaranteed, and final determinations remain at the discretion of the program.

2. **Are you currently actively engaged in research focused on climate, environmental sciences, or a closely related field?**

    - Yes
    - No

3. **Are you a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident whose primary residence is in the United States?**

    - Yes
    - No

    If you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident temporarily residing outside the United States but maintain your primary residence in the United States, please select "Yes."

4. **Are you currently enrolled as a full-time student in a degree-granting program?**

    - Yes
    - No

Fellowship Participation and Placement Acknowledgment

If selected for the Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF), I acknowledge and understand that:

1. **Residency Commitment:** I must be willing and able to reside in India for a continuous research placement for the full duration agreed upon at the time of selection, with the placement completed within the program's designated timeframe.
2. **Full Participation:** I will be expected to participate fully in the host institution's research environment and engage in fellowship activities, including orientation, cohort meetings, professional development, and program evaluation activities.
3. **Required Approvals:** My participation will be contingent upon securing any necessary approvals from my home institution or employer, as applicable, as well as required visas, work authorizations, research clearances, security approvals, and host institution approvals before beginning the placement.
4. **Host Institution Requirements:** I understand that I will be expected to comply with applicable host institution policies, research ethics standards, and health and safety requirements during my placement.

Required Acknowledgment

☐ I have read and understand the fellowship participation and placement requirements outlined above and confirm my willingness and ability to meet these conditions if selected.

Thank you for completing the eligibility screening questions. Based on your responses, you may proceed with the application. Please note that completing this screening does not confirm eligibility. All eligibility requirements, including any requests for exceptions, are subject to review and verification by the program.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Applicant Information

* indicates required field.

Applicant Personal and Contact Information

Prefix*

- ○ Dr.
- ○ Mr.
- ○ Ms.
- ○ Mrs.
- ○ Other/Prefer to self-describe
- ○ Prefer not to answer

First Name* [ ]

Middle Name [ ]

Last Name* [ ]

Suffix [ ]

Preferred Name [ ]

Address*	
City*	
State/Territory*	
Zip/Postal Code*	
Country*	
Primary Phone and Type* (e.g., Mobile, Work)	
Email* (please use same address used to create your applicant account)	

Education Background

If you have multiple degrees/positions for a particular education level, please enter the information for the most recent and/or most relevant degree/position.

1. Have you held a post-doctoral position?

- Yes
- No

1a. Most Recent Postdoc Information

Field of Study*	
Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *	
Completion Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *	
Institution*	
Department*	
City*	
State/Province/Region*	

Country

2. Terminal Degree Information

Type*

- ○ DrPH
- ○ DSW
- ○ MD
- ○ PhD
- ○ ScD
- ○ Other – Write-in

Field of Study*

Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *

Date Conferred (MM/DD/YYYY) per official academic record *

Institution*

Department*

City*

State/Province/Region*

Country*

Research Background and Expertise

Please share a few words or short phrases that describe your key areas of research or expertise (maximum 10 words per area) *

From the list below, select all areas of expertise that closely align with your research background and experience. *

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for Environmental Applications
- Atmospheric Chemistry & Air Pollution
- Atmospheric Science & Meteorology
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Climate, Energy & Environmental Economics
- Earth Observations & Remote Sensing
- Earth Systems & Climate Science
- Ecology & Ecosystem Science
- Energy Systems & Decarbonization
- Environmental Health & Epidemiology
- Environmental Policy & Governance
- Forestry, Plant & Soil Sciences
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) & Spatial Analysis
- Hydrology & Water Resources Management
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Sustainability Science
- Other (please specify):_____

Professional Profiles: Please provide links to your professional or research profiles, if available. (Optional)

- ORCID _____
- Professional Website _____
- Google Scholar Profile _____
- Other Professional or Research Profile_____

<u>Current Institutional and Employer Information</u>

Are you currently affiliated with an institution or employer? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide the following information:

Institution*	
Institution Type*	Drop-down - Choose between: University or College, Government Agency (Federal, State, Local), National Laboratory, Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Organization (NGO), Private Company, Other (please specify)
Department*	
Title/Position*	
Address*	
City*	
State/Province/Region*	
Zip/Postal Code*	
Country*	
Employment Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *	

What is your anticipated employment or professional affiliation status during the fellowship period?*

Please select the option that best describes your anticipated status.

- Remain employed or affiliated with my current institution/organization
- Take sabbatical/paid leave from my current position
- Take unpaid leave from my current position
- Unemployed or unaffiliated
- Uncertain at this time
- Other (please specify)

Note: Your anticipated employment or affiliation status will not affect your application review or chances of being selected for the fellowship. This information is collected for planning purposes only.

Research and Fellowship Narrative Questions

* indicates required field.

Before completing this section, please review the Request for Applications (RFA) and the host institution placement profiles, which provide information about participating institutions, and available research projects.

1. **Research Background and Contributions***

Describe your research background, areas of expertise, and most significant research contributions to date. Highlight the scientific questions you have addressed, the approaches or methods you have used, and the significance of your work, particularly as it relates to climate, environmental sciences, or the research opportunities offered through GCERF. (Max 500 words)

2. **Proposed Research Collaboration and Host Alignment***

Part A: Research Interest and Proposed Collaboration (Max 400 words).

Describe the research questions or activities you would like to explore during a three-to-six-month research placement, drawing on your current research and expertise. In your response, please address:

- The scientific question(s) and activities you hope to investigate and their significance.
- How the knowledge, methods, or findings gained through the collaboration could inform your ongoing or future research.

Part B: Research Project Preferences and Alignment (Maximum 400 words per opportunity)

Please select **up to three research projects** that are most closely aligned with your research interests and expertise. For each selected opportunity, briefly describe how your research background and expertise align with the opportunity and how you could contribute to the host research team.

Instructions:

- Review the host institution placement profiles before making your selections.

    - IIT Bombay Placement Guide (IITB)
    - IIT Kanpur Placement Guide (IITK)
    - IIT Madras Placement Guide (IITM)
- You may select more than one project from the same host institution.
- Do not propose new projects or opportunities.
- Your selections are **not ranked or listed in order of preference**. All selected opportunities will be considered equally during the review and matching process.
- While your selections will be considered, placement with a particular host institution, research group, or project is not guaranteed.
- You may build on your response in Part A without repeating the same information.

For each selected opportunity, briefly address:

- How your research expertise, technical skills, or methodological experience align with the specific project or research opportunity.
- What you could contribute to the host research team, such as technical expertise, research methods or approaches, analytical frameworks or perspectives, and how this collaboration could benefit both parties.

Research Opportunity 1*

- Host Institution (drop down):
- Research Project (Dropdown projects):
- Response (Maximum 400 words):

Research Opportunity 2

- Host Institution (drop down):
- Research Project (Dropdown projects):
- Response (Maximum 400 words):

Research Opportunity 3

- Host Institution (drop down):
- Research Project (Dropdown projects):
- Response (Maximum 400 words):

<u>Research and Professional Growth*</u>

Describe how participating in GCERF would contribute to your professional growth and research trajectory at this stage of your career.

What opportunities would an extended, in-residence international research experience provide that may be difficult to achieve through a short-term visit or remote collaboration?

Discuss how the fellowship could strengthen your research capabilities, professional development, leadership, international networks, or future research opportunities. (Max 500 words)

International Collaboration Preparedness*

Describe a relevant collaborative experience and explain how it has prepared you to contribute effectively contribute effectively to an international research environment. Please include:

- Your experience working with people across different institutional, disciplinary, or cultural contexts and,
- Any previous international research, professional, or collaborative experiences that have contributed to your development as a researcher. (Max 500 words)

Prior international experience is not required to apply for the fellowship.

Sustaining Research Collaboration*

Looking beyond the fellowship placement, describe how you envision building on the research relationship established with your host institution or research team and how you would approach developing a mutually beneficial and sustained research relationship beyond the fellowship period. (Max 500 words)

Host Placement Availability and Professional Readiness

* indicates required field.

Before completing this section, please review the Request for Applications (RFA) and the host institution placement profiles, which provide information about participating institutions, and available research projects and opportunities.

1. **Prior Host Institution or Researcher Affiliations***

Have you previously collaborated with, worked at, studied at, or held a formal affiliation with any of the host institutions or researchers associated with your selected projects?*

- Yes
- No

If Yes: Please identify the institution(s) and/or researcher(s) and briefly describe the nature of your prior relationship(s).

[ ]

Note: Prior collaboration or affiliation with a host institution or researcher is not required to apply for this fellowship.

2. **Preferred Placement Duration***

What is your preferred fellowship placement duration?*

Please enter a duration between 3 and 6 months (e.g., 4.5 months) or select "No preference."

- Preferred duration: [Numeric entry] months
- No preference

Placement Availability: Please indicate your earliest feasible start date and latest feasible end date for a three- to six-month research placement. Placements are expected to begin on a rolling basis starting on 1st August 2027 and must be completed no later 31st March 2028.

Both dates must fall within this timeframe (08/01/2027–03/31/2028).

- Earliest Available Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY) * [ ]
- Latest Available End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) * [ ]

<u>Placement Scheduling and Institutional Considerations*</u>

1. Are there any scheduling, institutional, or other arrangements that may need to be considered when planning your fellowship placement during your indicated timeframe?

- Yes
- No
- **If Yes:** Please briefly describe any anticipated considerations.

These could include scheduling constraints or difficulty securing institutional approval. Please do not disclose medical or other sensitive personal information.

2. Are there any Intellectual Property (IP) considerations related to your current research at your home institution that would need to be considered in connection with your proposed activities?

- Yes
- No

If Yes: Please briefly describe any relevant considerations.

This information will help the National Academies and host institutions identify any arrangements that may need to be discussed before the placement begins. Identifying potential considerations does not, by itself, affect your eligibility to apply

Professional Readiness for an International Research Placement*

Please describe how you anticipate preparing for and managing your professional responsibilities during a three- to six-month, in-residence research placement in India. (Max. 300 words)

In your response, please discuss how you would manage ongoing research or professional commitments, including any arrangements you may need to make with your current institution or employer, if applicable.

If you are not currently affiliated with an institution or employer, please briefly describe how you would prepare for the placement.

Please focus on professional considerations relevant to your ability to participate fully in the fellowship. Do not include medical information or other sensitive personal details.

Resume/CV Upload*

Please upload a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV) that highlights your academic background, research expertise, and relevant professional experience.

Your resume/CV should include the following, as applicable:

- Education and academic qualifications

- Research and professional experience
- Teaching and mentoring experience
- Relevant service, leadership, or committee experience
- Publications, presentations, and other scholarly contributions
- Relevant outreach, engagement, or other professional activities

Formatting Requirements

Your resume/CV must be submitted in PDF format and must not exceed five pages. Documents exceeding the page limit will be truncated to the first five pages before being shared with reviewers.

Applicants may use their preferred resume/CV format.

[UPLOAD RESUME/CV]

Institutional Support and Contributions

The Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF) involves a three- to six-month, in-residence research placement in India.

This section collects information about potential support from your current institution or employer, including anticipated leave arrangements, continued financial support, and other institutional contributions.

Current employment or institutional affiliation is not required to apply for GCERF. Applicants who are not currently employed or affiliated with an institution are not required to provide an institutional support letter.

*indicates a required field.

Institutional Support Letter Applicability

Is a home institution or employer support letter applicable to your current circumstances?*

- Yes — I am currently employed or affiliated with an institution.
- No — I am not currently employed or institutionally affiliated.

If No: No additional information or documentation is needed.

If Yes: Please provide the following documentation.

Home Institution or Employer Support Letter*

If you are currently employed or affiliated with an institution, please upload a letter from your institution or employer confirming its awareness of and support for your proposed participation in GCERF.

The letter should be on institutional letterhead and signed. It should address, as applicable:

- The institution's awareness of your proposed participation in a three- to six-month international research placement
- Any anticipated leave, sabbatical, or other employment arrangements
- The feasibility of your participation during the anticipated placement period
- Any anticipated financial or other institutional support during the fellowship period, including continued salary (full or partial), paid leave and/or backfilling of your current position, or sabbatical support.

Formatting Requirements: PDF format.

[UPLOAD SUPPORT LETTER]

Potential Institutional Contributions*

Does your current institution or employer provide, or anticipate providing, any financial or in-kind support during your fellowship placement?*

Please select all that apply:

- Continued salary or paid sabbatical/leave
- Partial salary support
- Continued employee benefits
- Travel or relocation support
- Research or project-related support
- Administrative or other in-kind support
- No anticipated institutional support
- Unsure at this time
- Other (please specify)

If you selected any form of support: Please briefly describe the anticipated support arrangements, including the estimated amount (including for partial/full salary support) or duration, if known.

Institutional financial contributions or cost sharing are not required to apply for GCERF. While Institutional financial contributions or cost sharing are strong encouraged, they are not required to apply for GCERF and will not be considered in the merit review of applications.

Appendix B: Application Review Criteria

Applications to the Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF) will be evaluated using the criteria below. Applicants are encouraged to review these criteria when preparing their application materials.

Applications to the Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF) will be evaluated based on applicants' research contributions, alignment with host research opportunities, potential for professional growth and meaningful collaboration, and readiness for an international research placement.

Reviewers will assess applications in the context of each applicant's career stage, discipline, and professional background, emphasizing the quality and significance of their contributions rather than solely publication counts, research funding, institutional affiliation, or prior international experience.

Review Criterion	**What Reviewers Will Assess**	**Weight**
1. Scientific Merit and Research Relevance	Quality and significance of research contributions, demonstrated expertise and scientific rigor, and relevance to GCERF's research areas and opportunities.	25%
2. Alignment with Host Research Opportunity	Alignment of research interests, expertise, and proposed activities with selected host opportunities; feasibility within the fellowship duration; and potential for meaningful contributions and knowledge exchange.	20%
3. Potential for Professional Development and Growth	How participation could strengthen the applicant's research capabilities, professional development, networks, and longer-term research trajectory.	15%
4. International Collaboration Preparedness	Ability to collaborate, communicate, and adapt across disciplinary, institutional, cultural, or professional contexts, including openness to learning from others.	15%
5. Potential for Sustained Research Collaboration	Potential to build mutually beneficial research relationships and sustain collaboration, knowledge exchange, or joint research beyond the fellowship.	15%
6. Professional Readiness and Placement Feasibility	Availability and preparedness to participate fully in the placement, including plans to manage professional commitments.	10%

Additional Considerations:

- Prior international experience is not required. Applicants may demonstrate collaboration readiness through domestic, interdisciplinary, cross-institutional, or other relevant experiences.
- A fully developed research proposal is not required. Applicants should demonstrate meaningful alignment with selected opportunities and the potential for productive collaboration.
- Reviewers may consider information across application responses and supporting materials when assessing each criterion. Institutional financial or in-kind contributions will not factor into the merit review.

Understanding the Review Criteria: What Reviewers Will Look For

The following guidance provides additional detail on how each review criterion will be assessed and highlights application questions and supporting materials that may be particularly relevant to each criterion. These references are intended to help applicants prepare their responses and are not exhaustive.

Reviewers will consider the full application when evaluating each criterion, and applicants are encouraged to provide complete, thoughtful responses to all questions.

1. **Scientific Merit and Research Relevance (25%)**

This criterion considers the quality, significance, and relevance of your research background and contributions to GCERF's goals and the available research opportunities. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The quality and significance of your research contributions and accomplishments.
- Your demonstrated research expertise, technical capabilities, and approaches to addressing scientific questions.
- Evidence of scientific rigor, sound judgment, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to research activities.
- The relevance of your expertise and research interests to climate, environmental sciences, and the selected host research opportunity.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Research and Fellowship Narrative - Research Background and Contributions, Proposed Research Collaboration, and Research Opportunity Alignment; Host Alignment; Resume/CV

2. **Alignment with Host Research Opportunity (20%)**

This criterion considers how well your research interests, expertise, and proposed activities align with your selected host research opportunity and the potential for a productive research collaboration. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The alignment between your research background and the goals of your selected research project.

- The alignment of your expertise and capabilities needed for the host research project.
- The clarity and significance of the research questions or activities you propose to ongoing projects during the fellowship.
- The feasibility of your proposed activities and anticipated outcomes within a three- to six-month placement.
- The potential for reciprocal knowledge exchange and meaningful contributions by both you and the host research team.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Research and Fellowship Narrative - Research Opportunity Selection and Alignment, Research Interests and Proposed Collaboration; Resume/CV

3. **Potential for Professional Development and Growth (15%)**

This criterion considers how the fellowship could contribute to your research and professional growth and the broader impact of your participation. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The significance of the fellowship opportunity to your research and professional development at this stage of your career.
- How the experience could strengthen your research capabilities, leadership, professional networks, and future research opportunities.
- The potential for the fellowship to contribute to your longer-term research trajectory and impact.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Research and Fellowship Narrative - Research and Professional Growth, Research Interests and Proposed Collaboration, and Sustaining Research Collaboration; Resume/CV

4. **International Collaboration Preparedness (15%)**

This criterion considers your ability to work effectively and collaboratively with researchers and professionals across different disciplinary, institutional, cultural, or professional contexts.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experiences demonstrating your ability to collaborate effectively with others.
- Your ability to communicate, adapt, and work productively across different perspectives and research environments.
- Evidence of a collaborative approach, professional judgment, and openness to learning from others.
- How your previous experiences have prepared you to contribute to an international research collaboration.

Prior international research or professional experience is not required. Applicants may demonstrate collaboration readiness through domestic, interdisciplinary, cross-institutional, or other relevant professional experiences.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Research and Fellowship Narrative - International Collaboration Preparedness, and Alignment with Selected Research Opportunities; Resume/CV

5. **Potential for Sustained Research Collaboration (15%)**

This criterion considers the potential for the fellowship to establish or strengthen meaningful research relationships that continue beyond the placement period.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The clarity and feasibility of your proposed approaches to sustaining collaboration beyond the fellowship.
- The potential for continued joint research, publications, proposals, knowledge exchange, or other collaborative activities.
- Your approach to building mutually beneficial research relationships.
- The potential for the fellowship to contribute to longer-term scientific partnerships, networks, or research opportunities.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Research and Fellowship Narrative - Sustaining Research Collaboration, Alignment with Selected Research Opportunities, and Research and Professional Growth; Resume/CV

6. **Professional Readiness and Placement Feasibility (10%)**

This criterion considers your preparedness to participate fully in a three- to six-month, in-residence research placement in India.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Your anticipated availability and ability to participate during the fellowship placement period.
- Your approach to managing ongoing research or professional responsibilities during the residency, as applicable.
- The feasibility of any anticipated institutional or employer arrangements necessary for participation.
- Your awareness of professional, research-related, or logistical considerations that could affect placement.

Most Relevant Application Questions and Materials: Host Placement Availability and Professional Readiness - Preferred Placement Duration, Placement Availability, Placement Scheduling and Institutional Considerations, Professional Readiness for an International Research Placement; Resume/CV