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, and
• 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 24 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.

For More Information Contact the Postdoc Program Office:
www.lanl.gov/postdocprogram
postdocprogram@lanl.gov
(505)665-5306

Salary and Benefits
Current salary guidelines start at $73,600 and are based on years since completion of PhD. Starting salary for Distinguished Postdocs is $108,000. A generous and comprehensive benefits package is included for all postdoc appointments.
Awards and Prizes
• Distinguished Postdoc Performance Award
• Postdoctoral Publication Prize in Experimental Sciences and in 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 during each of the quarterly meetings.
• 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.
• 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.
• Marie Curie (MC) - This Fellowship, named after the distinguished nuclear scientist and only person honored with two Nobel Prizes in different scientific categories (Physics, 1903; Chemistry, 1911), recognizes, encourages, and rewards outstanding scientific and engineering contributions by women. Open to all nationalities and research areas aligned with the Laboratory’s missions.
• 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.*
• 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