

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the DOE Traineeship in HEP Computation FOA Solicitation

General Advice

- Please read the FOA carefully as the requirements are complex.
- DOE Traineeship programs are expected to leverage existing university and laboratory resources and grant-funded R&D activities to provide a complete education and training experience for the students. Take care to **clearly differentiate how Traineeship funds are used** to support the Traineeship students' activities.
- The FOA is specific about the technical areas of critical need in Computation. These derive from HEPAP subcommittee and Basic Research Need studies of workforce and technical needs. Traineeship funds will only support students engaged with topics in these technical areas. See Section I of the FOA for details.
- Program Evaluation Plans should include, as one element, an external evaluation process that is substantially independent from the Traineeship program being evaluated.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plans and plans to include professional development coursework (e.g. project management, science communications, etc.) need to be clear, and clearly described in the application.
- Please contact the Technical/Scientific Program Contact listed in Section I of the FOA if you have questions.

Are four new students per year a mandatory minimum? Would one student per year be enough?

Four new enrolled Traineeship students per year is a mandatory minimum. The intent is to have a “critical mass” of students within each cohort both so they can study together and share experiences, and so that university minimum class-size requirements will be met. In both cases, one student per year would be inadequate.

Why are only U.S. citizens eligible for Traineeship program participation?

This restriction is DOE-wide policy for all Traineeship programs, which originated under former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. Note that non-U.S. students may co-enroll in classes, share advisors, and collaborate on R&D activities with Traineeship enrollees, but Traineeship program funding cannot be used to support non-U.S. students.

Is course development covered under the Traineeship funding?

Yes, subject to the limitations listed in Section I, part A.

Can organizations other than a DOE National Laboratory qualify as a provider of a DOE-focused element of Trainee’s experience?

Yes. Private sector organizations sponsored by DOE and other non-DOE organizations capable of addressing a specific DOE workforce training need are also eligible partners.

Can NNSA labs participate as partners to provide the DOE-focused element of a Traineeship program?

Yes.

Is a letter from a partner DOE Lab required even if they are not a paid subcontractor of the Traineeship?

Yes. The lab will bear costs of, e.g., hiring students as interns or providing a workshop, so a letter of support is required.

Does the \$55,000/student limit include overhead costs?

The \$55,000/student limitation is all-inclusive. See Section I, ~pg17.

Can we co-mingle Traineeship, Research Assistantships, and Teaching Assistantships within the two-year period that a student is in the Traineeship Program?

Yes. Take care that the funding use is distinct in each Trainee’s case by, for example, not co-mingling funding sources within a single academic quarter. The proposal must make very clear how the distinct funding sources fund distinctly different aspects of the student’s training.

Are letters of endorsement from collaborators helpful?

Yes, this may be helpful.

What is the typical award size?

The award size depends on the number of Traineeship students enrolled per year and the total cost of each Trainee’s tuition, stipend, as well as other program costs. Assuming a 5-year award, the minimum enrollment (4 new students per year, 8 students total in the Traineeship program in years 2-5), and the maximum cost reimbursement per student (\$55k), the maximum award size is \$1,980,000.

What is the typical award duration?

The typical award duration is 5 years. DOE reserves the right to conduct an external progress review in year three of the award to inform the decision to fund the remainder of the 5-year award.

What does the language in section II(B) “Estimated Funding” mean?

“Total value of grants” refers to value of all grants awarded under this year’s FOA over the full duration of the grants. This number is subject to the availability of appropriated funding in this and future years. Note that

“total value of grants” does not include the value of the DOE National Laboratory awards made under the companion Program Announcement.