



National Science Foundation

Excepted Position Vacancy

ANNOUNCEMENT NO: E20050016

OPEN: 11/05/04

CLOSE: 12/03/04

Vacancy announcement may close 15 days from opening date without notice.

THIS POSITION IS TEMPORARY NOT TO EXCEED 13 MONTHS. THE APPOINTMENT MAY BE EXTENDED UP TO A TOTAL OF THREE YEARS.

MORE THAN ONE POSITION MAY BE FILLED.

POSITION VACANT: Interdisciplinary Science Assistant position may be filled as a Social Scientist, AD-0101-1; Biologist, AD-0401-01; Physical Scientist, AD-1301-01; Geologist, AD-1350-01; Oceanographer, AD-1360-01; OR Computer Scientist, AD-1550-01. Annual salary ranges from \$27,597 to \$65,769.

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: None

LOCATION: Office of the Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA.

RELOCATION: Expenses will NOT be paid.

BARGAINING UNIT STATUS: This position is included in the bargaining unit and will be filled in accordance with merit staffing provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Article VIII.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All Sources

THIS POSITION IS OUTSIDE THE COMPETITIVE CIVIL SERVICE

If not filled as an IPA, appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Disabled veterans with 30% service-connected disabilities as well as other applicants with severe disabilities will be considered without regard to the closing date if applications are received prior to final selection.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a science writer, the individual selected for this position will serve as a science communicator in the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (OLPA). OLPA develops, coordinates and communicates information about the mission, goals, and policies of the National Science Foundation. Using mass media and other communications channels, OLPA publicizes the Foundation's programs, policies, and activities in science and engineering research and education to specialized audiences – including Congress, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, and the research and education communities – and to the general public.

The position requires turning technical and complex research results into lucid, succinct and exciting reports for a broad national audience. No specialized science background is required or sought. Science

communicators work directly with NSF professional staff and outside scientists – and under the supervision of NSF public-affairs specialists – to ensure accuracy. Most of the communicator’s work products will be posted to the NSF web site. Some may also appear in printed materials, video or other media. More information about OLPA and its programs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/about/start.htm>.

The best candidate will be creative but also a good detail manager; organized but also flexible; team-oriented but also focused when working alone; able to work comfortably with scientists, engineers and educators both inside and outside NSF; and willing to collaborate with illustrators and web designers to integrate text, with images, graphics and multimedia. Successful candidates will demonstrate a clear ability to write about a wide variety of research subjects at a level of sophistication appropriate for a non-technical audience approximately equivalent to general-circulation newspaper readers.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Applicants must have a Baccalaureate degree in the behavioral or social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences (including geology or oceanography), computer science, or related science. Substantial demonstrated experience in communicating science news and related matters to the general public is highly desirable. Familiarity with web-based communications theory and practice is a plus.

If contacted, applicants may be required to submit up to 2 writing samples.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT: Appointment to this position may be contingent upon successful completion of the appropriate background investigation.

HOW TO APPLY: You may apply for this position with the *Optional Application for Federal Employment* (OF-612), the older *Application for Federal Employment* (SF-171), a resume, or other application format of your choice - so long as it contains the necessary information (summarized below).

You must specify the job announcement number, and title and grade(s) of the job for which you are applying. You should also provide the following information: ♦ Your country of citizenship. ♦ Your social security number. ♦ Information about your education, including (1) high school graduation date and (2) college/university information - your major, and type and year of degree(s). If no degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether they are semester or quarter hours. ♦ Information about all your work experience related to this job, including job titles, duties and accomplishments, employer's name and phone number, number of hours worked per week, starting and ending dates (month and year), and annual salary. If you held various positions with the same employer, describe each separately. ♦ If you have Federal civilian experience, indicate the highest grade held, the job series, and dates held. ♦ The brochure *Applying for a Federal Job* provides information on the Federal job application process; it is available by calling the number listed below. **If your application does not provide all the information requested in the vacancy announcement, you may lose consideration for this job.**

The National Science Foundation provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the point of contact listed on this vacancy announcement.

You may submit your application via e-mail to ywoodwar@nsf.gov or submit all application material to National Science Foundation, Division of Human Resource Management, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 315, Arlington, VA 22230. Attn: Announcement Number E20050016. In addition to the required application materials, you are asked to complete and submit the attached Applicant Survey form. Submission of this form is voluntary and will not affect your application for employment. The information is used for statistical purposes only. **ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLOSING DATE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.** For additional information call Yvonne Woodward, on (703) 292-4386. Hearing impaired individuals may call TDD (703) 292-8044.

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HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION**

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
APPLICANT SURVEY

OMB No. 3145-0096
Expiration: 7/31/2005

Vacancy Ann. #: _____ Position Status (temporary/permanent): _____

Position Title/Series/Grade: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Your completion of this form will be appreciated. Submission of this Information is voluntary and it will have no effect on the processing of your application. The data collected will be used only for statistical purposes to ensure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law. Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0096. NSF estimates that each respondent should take about 3 minutes to complete this survey, including time to read the instructions. You may have comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing this burden. If so, please send them to NSF Reports Clearance Officer, Division of Administrative Services, NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 22230.

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION

GENERAL - This information is provided pursuant to Public Law 93-579 (Privacy Act of 1974), December 31, 1974, for individuals completing Federal records and forms that solicit personal information.

AUTHORITY - Section 7201 of title 5 of the U.S. Code and Section 2000e-16 of title 42 of the U.S. Code.

PURPOSE AND ROUTINE USES

The information is used for research and for a Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) to help insure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law. Address questions concerning this form and its uses to the Privacy Act Officer, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230.

1. Today's Date: _____ 2. Year of Birth: _____

3. How did you learn about the particular position for which you are applying? (Circle appropriate number.)

- 01 - Newspaper (specify) _____
- 02 - Contact with NSF Personnel Office (Agency Bulletin Board or other Announcement)
- 03 - NSF-initiated personal contact
- 04 - Science Magazine, or other professional journal or magazine (specify) _____
- 05 - Affirmative Action Register
- 06 - Attendance at conference, meeting or job fair (specify) _____
- 07 - NSF recruitment at school or college
- 08 - Colleague referral
- 09 - NSF Bulletin
- 10 - Federal, State or local job information center
- 11 - State vocational rehabilitation agency or Veterans Administration
- 12 - State employment office
- 13 - School or college counselor or other official
- 14 - Private job Information service
- 15 - Private employment service
- 16 - Friend or relative working at NSF
- 17 - Friend or relative not working at NSF
- 18 - NSF website
- 19 - Internet or other website
- 20 - Other (specify) _____

4. Select the ethnic category with which you most closely identify:

- A. **Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- B. **Not Hispanic or Latino.**

5. Select one or more racial category with which you most closely identify:

- A. **American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- B. **Asian.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- C. **Black or African American.** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- D. **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- E. **White.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

6. Sex (Circle the appropriate letter.) F - Female M - Male

7. Please provide information on your disability status by circling the appropriate category below:

- 1. I do not have a disability; 2. Hearing impairment; 3. Vision impairment; 4. Missing extremities; 5. Partial paralysis;
- 6. Complete paralysis; 7. Convulsive disorder; 8. Mental retardation; 9. Mental or emotional illness; 10. Severe distortion of limbs and/or spine; 11. I have a disability but it is not listed.

FOR AGENCY USE

Agency Code: _____

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER