Moore Inventor Fellows: Frequently Asked Questions

If you seek further clarity or find your question is not answered within the FAQ and Application Guidelines documents, please reach out to the Moore Inventor Fellows team at inventors@moore.org.

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Application

Application process and timeline

What is the timeline for the competition?

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 15, 2022</td>
<td>2023 nomination call launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 4, 2022</td>
<td>Submit institution’s point-of-contact information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 4, 2022</td>
<td>Online application opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 19, 2022</td>
<td>Virtual Q&amp;A with Moore Inventor Fellows team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 14, 2022</td>
<td>Submit nomination form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 13, 2022</td>
<td>Deadline to submit full application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of April 12, 2023</td>
<td>Finalists selected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 8, 2023</td>
<td>Finalist Day — virtual presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of May 8, 2023</td>
<td>Decision made; institutions notified</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2023</td>
<td>2023 Moore Inventor Fellows announced</td>
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Will I receive an update on the status of my nomination?

The Moore Inventor Fellows team will inform the institution’s point of contact on the status of their candidate(s) application in Spring 2023. Due to the volume of applications and inquiries, we are unable to provide any review, feedback, or assessment information.

Nominations — deadline for basic information – November 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. PST

By when and how should I submit the basic nomination form?

November 14, 2022 is the deadline to complete the basic Nomination Form and submit the institutional letter of support. Please do not click “Submit,” as this will submit the full application. The Moore Inventor Fellows team will be able to see when the Nomination Form is completed, and the institutional letter of support is submitted.
Is there a word-count limit for the invention description, and how many key words should I use?

There is no word count limit, although historically the descriptions have been a few lines in length. For keywords, applicants typically provide 3-6 but this is at your discretion.

Is there value in re-nominating a candidate this year, who was not awarded in a previous year for a separate invention?

Institutions may re-nominate an individual and proposal that did not receive funding in a previous round if they would like to do so, provided they still meet the eligibility requirements of the program. There is no advantage or disadvantage to re-submission as each competition is conducted independently from other years.

Application materials

What information and how in-depth and technical should I include in the statement of invention? Can I include figures, charts, and other supporting graphics?

Please consider your audience when crafting the proposal – proposals are evaluated by a diverse cohort of expert reviewers who may or may not have expertise in your specific subject area. You may include figures, charts, and references within the total page length limit.

- Description of invention.
- Importance to science, environmental conservation, or patient care (please select check one in the Nomination Form).
- Stage of invention.
- Current funding.
- Feasibility.
- Risk.
- Potential impact.
- Approach for measuring progress during the grant term.

The instructions indicate the Statement of Invention must be no more than two pages with 12-point font and should include citations. Can the full references be listed in a small font size?
We suggest minimizing the number of references and request all applications be written in 12-point font.

In the two-page statement of invention, should candidates include information regarding all their current funding, or just the current and planned funding for the proposed invention?

The invention statement should focus on current and planned funding for the proposed invention and not additional funding.

Can the recommendation letters come from collaborators (both from a home institution and another institution, conforming to the guidelines), or do they need to be independent references?

One of the recommendation letters may be from a collaborator, if at least one comes from outside the nominating institution.

SurveyMonkey Apply: Links and troubleshooting

Where is the link to the website?

The URL to the SurveyMonkey Application portal is:
https://mooreinventors.smapply.io/

Our institutional point of contact is ready to submit the institution’s candidate for nomination, but when I log into SurveyMonkey Apply, it refers to me as the applicant. Is this correct?

Correct – you will be identified as the “applicant” in the system, as the institutional point of contact is responsible for the candidate’s application and will submit it on behalf of the candidate.

How do I gain access to SurveyMonkey Apply portal?

Only the primary contact for each eligible institution can access the application portal and should submit applications on behalf of their institution’s candidate(s). If you are the primary contact and would like to request a login to the portal, please email inventors@moore.org.
When I try to share the SurveyMonkey application with the candidate, using “invite the nominee” selection, they receive a message that sounds like they are being asked to write a recommendation letter. Should the candidate click on “Give Recommendation” to view the application?

Yes, candidates should click the “Give Recommendation” to view the application. Because the institution’s point of contact is responsible for creating the application, they are considered “the applicant” while the Moore Inventor Fellow candidate is considered “the recommender.” Unfortunately, this is the only way to navigate this issue in SurveyMonkey Apply.

For all the uploaded documents, what format should they be in?

Please submit all documents in PDF format.

Can institution applicants include more than one email on the application site so two people from the same institution can work on one nomination?

We are only able to add one email as the primary contact in the Apply website where applications will be accepted. You may however share the login details with a colleague.

I have two candidates to nominate, but when I log into SurveyMonkey Apply, I can only create one application. How do I create the second?

To create the second application, you will need to go to ‘programs’ along the top grey bar. Next, go back into the 2023 Moore Inventor Fellow competition, and select ‘Apply’ again to add a second applicant.

I am having trouble accessing the application website. What should I do?

Please email inventors@moore.org and we will resend a link to the website.

Eligibility

Moore Inventor Fellow candidate
To be an eligible candidate, must the individual have completed their terminal degree in their field (e.g., no undergraduate or graduate students)?

Yes. This competition is open only to faculty, postdocs, and staff at eligible institutions.

If I have previously applied for the fellowship but was not chosen, am I eligible to apply this year?

Yes, candidates who have been nominated and applied in a previous year can re-apply this year. Each year’s competition is evaluated independently from previous competitions.

Is there a specific cutoff date for the career stage requirement?

All candidates must be no more than 10 years past receiving their Ph.D., M.D., M.S., or other terminal degree in their field from when the award will begin (2023 – a degree received on any date in 2013 is acceptable).

I am an associate professor at an eligible university, within 10 years of starting my tenure-line post but beyond 10 years of receiving my degree. Am I eligible to apply?

No. All candidates must be within 10 years of receiving their Ph.D. or other terminal degree. However, a degree received on any date in 2013 is acceptable.

I have a master’s degree but not a Ph.D. Am I still eligible for nomination?

Yes. Different fields have different practices regarding terminal degrees. We want to allow the most highly qualified candidates to be nominated. The terminal degree should be a graduate level degree, such as a Ph.D., M.D., MBA, MSc, MPH, or other similar degree.

I see that each fellow is expected to devote at least 25 percent of their time to the work – does this need to be at least 25 percent in each year, or may it be at least 25 percent averaged over the duration of the award (i.e., one year has less than 25 percent effort, but other years with more so that it averages to at least 25 percent effort)?
Flexibility in effort allocation is permissible as long as the total for the award equals at least 25 percent of academic effort. This does not refer to the candidate’s own time outside of the lab.

I am a member of an institution whose research, teaching and service responsibilities prevent me from spending a quarter of my time on invention activities. Am I still eligible for the fellowship?

No. Fellows must be engaged in the pursuit of their invention at least 25 percent time for the three-year duration of the award.

Are co-principal investigators an option for Moore Inventor Fellow awards?

Co-principal investigators are not allowed, but the Moore Inventor Fellow may collaborate with other researchers.

We are a team of two or more eligible faculty/staff. Can we apply as a group, or must nominations be for an individual?

Each nomination must be for a single individual who is the project lead. However, we understand many projects are made possible through collaboration and allow grant funds to be used toward collaboration in service of the project.

Candidate eligibility exceptions

Is there an exception for time taken for parental or family leave?

We recognize the early career window can affect candidates who have taken parental or family leave. In instances where parental or family leave exceeds one year, please contact us to assess whether to make an exception.

What is the policy for exceptions for receiving a terminal degree in the case of parental leave?

Candidates are allowed one year of parental leave per child. For example, if you took two years of parental leave for two different children, you would still be allowed to apply if you received your terminal degree within 12 years.
I am a surgeon who spent several years in clinical training. I received my M.D. more than 10 years ago. Am I eligible?

We make an exception for physicians with five or more years of clinical training since obtaining their terminal degree. These clinicians are eligible if they are within five years of completing clinical training. For example, a cardiothoracic surgeon who completed five years of general surgery residency and three years of fellowship would have five years of eligibility beyond the completion of their fellowship.

If I meet an exception, should I confirm with the Moore Inventor Fellows team that I am still eligible?

Yes, please send us an email about your situation. If the team confirms and approves your exception, please include the date of correspondence in the eligibility exception approval box located on the nomination form.

Home institution

As an institution eligible to participate in the Moore Inventor Fellows program, is there a specific process for internal solicitation and selection we should follow?

We encourage nominating institutions to consider an inclusive approach as part of their internal solicitation. There is no specific process for internal solicitation and selection outlined by the foundation. We recognize inventors and innovators come from a diversity of backgrounds, disciplines and experiences and will look for creativity across a broad array of academic programs and research departments.

Examples of such programs include but are not limited to environmental science and conservation, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, big data, climatology, emerging infectious diseases, oceanography, biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, materials science, neuroscience, and public health.

My home institution is not included on the list of institutions eligible to nominate. Is there an alternative route by which I can apply for consideration?

At this time, the competition is open only to inventors from selected universities, medical schools, and environmental research and patient care institutions listed below. Each eligible institution may nominate two people.
I am an eligible individual at a participating institution but may leave my current institution during the grant. Am I still eligible? Would you consider transferring a grant?

Yes. The most important goal is for an individual to make progress on their project. We would make the grant to your current institution and discuss, on a case-by-case basis, the best way to manage the full term of the award when you move. The new institution must also be willing to fulfill the $50,000 annual contribution requirement.

If two candidates from the same institution, advance from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the review process, will the institution be limited to one final candidate?

It is possible for both candidates from the same institution to move forward in the process. If both candidates are selected as finalists, both will have the opportunity to present at Finalist Day.

Evaluation

How are applications evaluated and what questions are used for evaluation?

The following questions are used to evaluate each application:

- Rate the candidate’s capabilities as an inventor.
- Rate the potential impact of the proposed project.
- Rate the plausibility of the invention to achieve its stated impact.
- Rate the potential for measurable progress within a 3-year period.
- Rate the overall application, considering both the inventor and invention.

Who will evaluate my applications?

Moore Foundation staff and external reviewers with subject matter expertise most closely aligned with each proposed invention in consultation with the foundation will evaluate the applications. We are unable to share the names of our external reviewers. Application will be selected in line with the goals of the Moore Inventor Fellows program and random selection may be used in tie break situations.

Funding

Is the grant award for fellows $600,000 or $675,000?
The total grant award from the Moore Foundation is $675,000 for a three-year period. The fellow receives a total of $600,000 ($200,000 each year, for three years). The home institution will receive a total of $75,000 ($25,000 each year for three years) to offset costs associated with grant management.

Can you please clarify what costs are permissible as part of the institution’s $50,000 annual contribution?

Each host institution needs to contribute $50,000 in annual direct support of the inventor’s work each year of the fellowship. This could include support for undergraduate or graduate students, equipment, supplies, and other needs that will enable the fellow to make progress on their work. Direct salary support is acceptable provided it includes a proportionate release of time from teaching or other duties. Funds that were designated for a fellow’s use before the fellow was awarded a Moore Inventor Fellows award (such as start-up funds) do not qualify. A clear statement of the proposed institutional support is part of the nomination.

Are we allowed to include third party in-kind match to support a project that is field related in nature?

No. The required contributions must come directly from the nominating institution.

How much flexibility does the fellow have with respect to budget allocations?

Fellows can determine how grant funds are used for project purposes in accordance with the Moore Foundation budget template. For example, grant funds may be used to support portions of salary, undergraduate or graduate students, equipment or supplies.

Does prior funding from the Moore Foundation preclude a person from being nominated?

No, prior funding does not preclude a person from being nominated.

Is there a salary cap for the principal investigator? Can I propose to be on 100 percent effort?

There is no salary cap.
Would it be acceptable to request 100 percent salary support for a research hire if they do not have any teaching duties?

Full salary support for research personnel is permissible if they do not have teaching duties.

Can the Moore Inventors Fellows grant funds be used to support sub-awards/consortium costs?

Yes, the grant funds can support sub-awards if needed.

Can Moore Inventor Fellow funds be used for clinical trial support?

Proposed research should not include clinical trials and awarded funds should not be used to cover clinical trials.

Intellectual Property

Moore Inventor Fellow Intellectual Property Policy

What is the Moore Foundation’s IP policy?

The foundation’s policy on Data and Intellectual Property is located on the Grantee Resource page or linked here.

The main points for IP are:

- Intellectual Property must be managed and disseminated in a manner that leads to the greatest impact.
- In most cases, intellectual property should be owned by the grantee institution and made available at no cost or, when justified, at a reasonable cost.
- For some grants, a more proprietary or revenue-generating approach to IP may be appropriate to protect legitimate interests of participants, or because exclusivity may actually lead to greater impact.

What are the foundation’s goals for IP in Moore Inventor Fellow grants?

Moore Inventor Fellows work on solutions to important problems. IP should be managed in a way that prioritizes impact on the targeted problems.
Does the Moore Foundation seek any ownership interest, royalties or financial return from IP developed by Moore Inventor programs?

No. The foundation is not seeking any financial benefit for itself. Under some circumstances, the foundation would consider taking a non-exclusive license for the limited purpose of facilitating impactful, charitable use of funded IP, but the preferred approach is for grantee institutions to manage the IP without the foundation’s direct involvement.

Will grantee institutions have to create special policies or procedures for managing IP from Moore Inventor Fellow grants?

No. We know that our grantee institutions, when they protect and license IP, pay attention to important goals like putting research to work, benefitting the public, and generating revenue to support their academic and research missions. If a grantee organization has multiple reasonable options available for managing or licensing IP, we do ask that priority be given to the approach(es) that advance the purpose of the Moore Inventor Fellow grant.

What do we do about IP that was partially developed with support from other funders?

We think that our IP terms are consistent with the requirements of Bayh-Dole and other funders’ typical requirements, but we’ll work with grantees to resolve any conflicts.

How are IP requirements addressed in Moore Inventor Fellow grant agreements?

The standard IP term for a Moore Inventor Fellow grant agreement is attached.

The grant agreement requires the grantee to provide an “IP plan.” What should the IP plan include?

The Moore Foundation would like grantees to give some thought to how IP issues will impact the future success of a supported project. The IP plan should outline the key issues, and the how the grantee proposes to address them, as well as any other plans for use of IP developed during the grant.

Will the intellectual property presented in the ‘statement of invention’ be protected during the competition?
Yes, absolutely. We appreciate that candidate(s) are sharing potentially valuable information with the foundation. All staff and external advisors who review applications have signed nondisclosure agreements with the foundation. All material submitted is protected. The foundation’s Data Sharing and Intellectual Property Policy states all intellectual property must be managed and disseminated in a manner that leads to the greatest impact. Each award will include IP terms to reflect the needs of that project.

In an invention-focused project, IP terms may be important to achieving the intended impact, so it may be appropriate to negotiate project-specific IP terms for the grant agreement. Intellectual property terms can be negotiated on a case-by-case basis once projects have been selected for funding. Submission of an application does not commit the university/institution or project lead in advance to any particular IP terms.

Intellectual Property Terms for Grant Agreements

**Intellectual Property:**
In order to promote successful dissemination and widespread use of the Grant Works (as defined below), [GRANTEE] agrees to the following terms. Nothing in this Grant Agreement shall be interpreted to require [GRANTEE] to share data or information to the extent restricted pursuant to HIPPA or other applicable law.

(a) **IP Ownership.** All right, title, and interest in and to the intellectual property, including without limitation programming code or software, (in source code, object code or other form) or marks, ideas, formulae, algorithms, concepts, methodology, techniques, inventions, know-how, or the expression or use of the foregoing, that [GRANTEE], including any of its employees, contractors, agents and other persons or entities under its control (each an “Agent”) creates in the performance of activities funded by this Grant (collectively, "Grant Works"), shall be the property of [GRANTEE], subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Grant Agreement, including but not limited to the licensing requirements set forth in paragraph (c) below.

(b) **Assignment of Third Party Rights.** [GRANTEE] represents that it has, pursuant to its normal policies and practices, caused its Agents to, take any and all actions necessary to ensure that [GRANTEE] and its Agents irrevocably assign, grant, convey and transfer to [GRANTEE] any and all right, title and interest in and to the Grant Works they may have, including any and all intellectual property rights in or relating to thereto effective as of the moment of creation.
(c) Grant of Licenses; Priority for Grant Purpose. [GRANTEE] shall use its best efforts to manage and disseminate the Grant Works so as to maximize accomplishment of the Grant Purpose; [GRANTEE] may, in addition, manage and disseminate the Grant Works for any other purposes, in accordance with its policies for management of intellectual property, as long as it does not do so in a way that hinders accomplishment of the Grant Purpose. If, in the Foundation’s sole opinion, the Foundation believes that [GRANTEE]’s management of the Intellectual Property is not consistent with the preceding sentence, [GRANTEE] agrees to and shall grant to the Foundation an irrevocable, perpetual (or the longest period permitted by law), worldwide, nonexclusive, transferable, fully paid-up, royalty-free license to Use the Grant Works, with the right to sublicense the same without restriction or payment of consideration for the Foundation’s charitable purposes. For purposes of this Grant Agreement, “Use” means use, make, have made, sell, install, operate, develop, compile, run, reproduce, deploy, distribute, transmit, display, perform, create derivative works of, make available on servers, provide access to, integrate with software, make interoperable and perform tasks as necessary to utilize any item, creation, object, program, idea, concept, data, information, knowledge or any other tangible or intangible property and otherwise exploit any manner.

Other

What are the reporting requirements for fellows?

Fellows typically submit one narrative report and one financial report per year, in addition to annual calls with their assigned program officer. However, fellows may develop a specific reporting plan in working with the program officer.

Would it be feasible to request a customized start date for my project?

All projects selected for funding will be announced at the same time so there is not an option of starting uncoordinated with the others.

Are the proposals kept in confidence? How much information is shared with the public?

All proposals are kept in confidence. Information shared by the Moore Foundation with the public are details about the fellows selected for funding and will be drafted in collaboration with the Moore Foundation and fellow’s institutional communications team.
Are there any notable differences between this year’s process and previous years?

This year, we expanded the number of eligible institutions and made minor changes to the application questions. Please carefully read the solicitation and FAQ documents and email inventors@moore.org with any questions you may have.

I have an idea for an invention but am not sure if it fits within the Moore Inventor Fellows program goals. How can I check?

We seek to support ideas and inventors grounded in science and technology that can make important contributions to the areas of science, patient care or environmental conservation. To help ensure we have the strongest applicant pool possible, we have asked each eligible institution to nominate two candidates for consideration. We suggest you contact your institution point person to better understand the process for selection. You can also view past recipients on our website. The foundation does not plan to respond to preliminary inquiries from individuals.

Eligible Institutions

Albert Einstein College of Medicine  Brown University
Amazon Conservation Association  California Academy of Sciences
Amazon Conservation Team  California Institute of Technology
American Museum of Natural History  Carnegie Institution of Washington
Arizona State University, Tempe  Carnegie Mellon University
Auburn University  Case Western Reserve University
Ballad Health  Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Baylor College of Medicine  Claremont Graduate University
Baystate Medical Center  Clark Atlanta University
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  Clark University, Clark Labs
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  Clemson University
Binghamton University  Cleveland Clinic
Boston Children's Hospital  Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Boston College  Colorado School of Mines Foundation
Boston University  Colorado State University, Fort Collins
Boston University Medical Campus  Columbia University
Brandeis University  Conservation International
Brigham and Women's Hospital  Conservation Strategy Fund
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<tr>
<th>Conservation X Labs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
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Prairie View A&M University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Radiant Earth Foundation
Rainforest Alliance
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rocky Mountain Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Smithsonian Institution
Southern University and A&M College
Stanford University
Stroud Water Research Center Inc.
SUNY, Stony Brook University
SUNY, University at Albany
SUNY, University at Buffalo
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas Christian University
Texas Southern University
Texas Tech University
The Botanical Research Institute of Texas
The Conservation Fund (The Freshwater Institute)
The National Center for Genome Resources
The Nature Conservancy
The Scripps Research Institute
Tufts Medical Center
Tufts University
Tulane University
University Hospitals
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Boulder
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University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Idaho
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign
University of Iowa
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University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Maine
University of Maryland, Baltimore (School of Medicine)
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts Medical School
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University of North Texas
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University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
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University of Rochester
University of South Carolina, Columbia
University of South Florida, Main Campus
University of Southern California
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center Medical Center
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
West Virginia University
Wildlife Conservation Society
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woodwell Climate Research Center
World Resources Institute
World Wildlife Fund (WWF US)
Yale University