Moore Inventor Fellows: Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about Application

I see in the instructions that the statement of invention must be no more than 2-pages with 12-point font and should include citations. Is it okay if the full references are listed in a smaller 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 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.

Is there a word count limit for the brief invention description for the November deadline and how many keywords should I be using?

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

Can the recommendation letters be from collaborators (both from a home institution and at 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.

If an inventor/invention has been nominated in a previous year but not awarded, is there value in re-nominating the same candidate for other research?

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.

What kind of information are you looking for in the "statement of invention"? How in-depth and technical should the description be, and do you allow figures, charts or other graphics?

We expect no more than two pages describing the main idea, that idea's importance, its stage of invention, the problem the idea seeks to address, any existing or planned funding, technical feasibility and potential impact of the invention in one of our three programmatic themes: science, environmental conservation or patient care. You may include figures, charts and references within the total page length limit. Please consider your audience when crafting the proposal – proposals will be evaluated by a diverse cohort of expert reviewers who may or may not have expertise in your specific subject-area.

Questions about Funding

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% effort?

There is no salary cap.

Can the Moore Inventors Fellows grant funds be used to support subawards/consortium costs?

Yes, the grants funds can support subawards if needed.

Would it be acceptable to request 100% salary support for a research hire if they don't have any teaching duties?

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

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.

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 Fellowship (such as start-up funds) do not qualify. A clear statement of the proposed institutional support is part of the nomination.

Is the grant award for fellows $600,000 or $675,000?

The total grant award 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).

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.

Questions about Eligibility

Are only individuals who have completed the terminal degree in their field eligible for nomination (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 still apply?

Yes, applicants may re-apply if they have applied in the past. We evaluate each application pool independently from previous years.

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

All candidates must be no more than ten years past receiving their Ph.D., M.D., M.S. or other terminal degree. A degree received on any date in 2011 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 2012 is acceptable.

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.

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.

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.

Questions about Home Institutions

My institution is not listed as eligible to participate in the Moore Inventor Fellows program. 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. 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 handle the full term of the award I you move. The new institution must also be willing to fulfill the $50,000 annual contribution requirement.

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?

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. We encourage nominating institutions to consider an inclusive approach as part of their internal solicitation. 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.

What is the full list of eligible institutions?

The eligible institutions are:

Albert Einstein School of Medicine
Amazon Conservation Association
Amazon Conservation Team
American Museum of Natural History
Arizona State University-Tempe
Auburn University
Ballad Health
Baylor College of Medicine
Baystate Medical Center
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Binghamton University
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston College
Boston University
Boston University Medical Campus
Brandeis University
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brown University
California Academy of Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Institution of Washington
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University, Clark Labs
Clemson University
Cleveland Clinic
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Columbia University
Conservation International
Conservation Strategy Fund
Conservation X Labs
Cornell University
CUNY Graduate School and University Center
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Dartmouth College

Dartmouth University
Delaware State University
Drexel University
Duke University
Emory University
Environmental Defense Fund
Field Museum of Natural History
FlipLabs / Future of Fish (ImpactAssets)
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Geisinger
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Hampton University
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Harvard University
Howard University
Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai
Indiana University
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis School of Medicine
Intermountain Healthcare
Iowa State University
Island Conservation
J Craig Venter Institute, Inc.
Jackson State University
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
Kaiser Permanente
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Marine Biological Laboratory
Massachusetts General Hospital
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mayo Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical University of South Carolina
MedStar Health
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University

Montana State University
Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Morgan State University
National Aquarium
National Geographic Society
Nationwide Children's Hospital
New England Aquarium
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York Botanical Garden
New York University
New York University School of Medicine
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northeastern University
Northwell Health
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon Health and Science University
Oregon State University
Penn State Health (Hershey Medical Center)
Pennsylvania State 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
Stanford University
Stony Brook University - SUNY
Stroud Water Research Center Inc.
SUNY at Albany
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M 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
The University of Alabama
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas, MD Andersen Cancer Center
The University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center
Tufts Medical Center
Tufts University
Tulane University
University at Buffalo - SUNY
University Hospitals
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-Main Campus
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado, Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville

University of Maryland, Baltimore (School of Medicine)
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Miami
University of Miami School of Medicine
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
University of Nevada-Reno
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus
University of New Mexico-Main Campus
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Southern California
University of Southern Mississippi
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

Questions about SurveyMonkey Application Website

Where is the link to the website?

The URL for the website is https://mooreinventors.smapply.io/

For nominators: We have identified two candidates and I need to submit their information. When I log in to SurveyMonkey Apply, it refers to me as an applicant, which I am not. Is this correct?

Correct - you'll be identified as the "applicant" in the system but you can submit the applications on behalf of the candidates.

I am trying to share the application with our two nominees so they can see all the instructions. When I use the selection "invite the nominee" the nominees receive a message which sounds like they are being asked to write a letter of recommendation. Should they click on "Give Recommendation" to view the application?

Yes, nominees should click the "Give Recommendation" to view the application. This unfortunately is the only way to navigate this issue in the Apply system.

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

Please submit the 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.

We are beginning the process to nominate two faculty for the Moore Inventor Fellows Program. When I logged into the nominations site, I could initiate one application but not the second.

To create the second application, you need to go to 'programs' along the top grey bar, and then go back into the 2020 MIF competition, and then select Apply again, and you'll be able to add a second applicant.

I have an application to submit for the program. How do I gain access to the online application

portal?

Only the primary contact for each eligible institution can access to the application portal and should submit applications on behalf of their institution's nominees. If you are the primary contact and would like to request a login to the portal, please email inventors@moore.org.

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.

Other Questions

What are the reporting requirements for fellows?

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

I see that each fellow is expected to devote at least 25% of their time to the work – does this need to be at least 25% in each year, or may it be at least 25% averaged over the duration of the award (i.e., one year has less than 25% effort, but other years with more so that it averages to at least 25% effort)?

Flexibility in effort allocation is permissible as long as the total for the award equals at least 25 percent.

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. Does this mean I am ineligible?

Yes. Fellows must be engaged in the pursuit of their invention at least 25 percent time for the three-year duration of the award.

When two applicants from the same institution are considered in Phase One of the Moore review process, is it possible for both to be invited to participate in Phase Two? Or do you limit the presentations to one candidate per eligible institution?

It is possible for both candidates from the same institution to move forward in the process.

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 isn't an option of starting out of sync with the others.

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.

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

Nominees 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.

Are the proposals kept in confidence? How much information is divulgated to the public?

All proposals are kept in confidence and we only share with the public information about those fellows who are selected for funding.

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.

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.

Will I receive an update on the status of my nomination?

We will inform institutional contacts of their nominees' application status in Spring 2021 but are unable to provide any review, feedback or assessment information.

Will the intellectual property presented in the "statement of invention" be protected during the competition?

Yes, absolutely. We appreciate that nominees 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.

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.

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. The foundation does not plan to respond to preliminary inquiries from individuals.