

**CRA/CCC Computing Innovation Fellows 2020
May 26th Webinar Questions and Answer**

Questions	Answers
"No more than two fellowships will be awarded to candidates whose mentors are at a specific university." Does this mean that a mentor may have at most two awardees?	A Mentor may only work with 1 CIFellow. There can only be 2 CIFellows per institution.
Also we need to find a potential postdoc mentor first and then apply for this funding. Does it also support the mentor with their project funding?	CIFellows funding does not cover the mentor's research, only the CIFellow.
Any difference if I have a proposed mentor who is a junior professor or having a full professor will give higher chances?	There is no difference.
Are all documents due by the application deadline (including letters)?	Yes
Are letters of recommendations from industry research mentors acceptable for the application, or are recommendations from tenure-track faculty preferable?	Yes, letters from industry researchers are fine.
Are the applicants evaluated by their prior publications? Thank you	Applicants are evaluated holistically, on everything we ask for.
are the letters open or confidential... will the candidates, mentors, or current advisors see the letters?	The letters will be submitted directly by the writers, and the applicants will not see them.
Are there specific guideline regarding research which falls areas between NSF and NIH funding? (eg in the area of medical CPS, is it ok to include potential patient trials, or would that be too close to NIH)?	As long as the research also falls under the CISE umbrella, it can be considered for the CIFellows program.
Are there templates for the required documents	No, use the guidelines/criteria and FAQs on the website to compose your documents
Are Visas the responsibility of the hosted institution?	CRA cannot be involved in securing VISAs.
Are we allowed to change institutes or mentors during the 2 years of the fellowship? Thank you	That is not the intention of the program.
Are we required to do the post-doc in the mentor's lab or we can stay in the phd advisor's lab and mentor is only kind of a secondary advisor?	This is a growth opportunity. You should propose the best way for you to have a career growing experience for your CIFellowship.

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Are you specifically not including research faculty at academic institutions? They are typically not tenured/tenure track	Correct.
As a mentor, what should I do if I get approached by two different students? Can I write two letters, or must I pick one?	You can write two letters, but only be awarded to work with 1 student.
As a potential mentor who is on a tenure track, can I mentor more than one postdocs? In that case, is there a way in which the mentor can indicate his/her preference?	You can only work with 1 student, and there is no way for the mentor to provide a preference.
As long as the topic meets the criteria, does the mentor have to be in a computer science department? e.g. robotics mentors being in mechanical/electrical engineering	No.
Assuming that you have two co mentors, can one of them be your current PhD adviser?	This must be a career growth experience, which is not as likely if you are working with the same supervisor.
Can a committee member (not chair) be a mentor?	Yes, but show how this will be a growth experience.
Can a mentor be a tenure track faculty member at a private research institution that is not a university (such as Cold Spring Harbor Research Lab)?	No
Can a potential mentor be a tenure track scientist in a national lab like Fermilab?	No
Can a senior teaching-track faculty be a mentor?	Yes, a senior teaching-track faculty member can be a mentor, if your proposed research area is in computing education or broadening participation in computing.
Can an applicant submit multiple applications with multiple mentors from different institutions?	An applicant can submit 2 applications with different mentors.
Can apply with a mentor that is in the same department as my PhD advisor?	Yes
Can CI Fellowships be applied if the position to be held is a non-tenure-track research assistantship position?	Yes
Can I apply with two co-mentors? If so, do the co-mentors have to be with the same institution?	You need to determine the best mentoring relationship that will work for you.

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Can I do my fellowship at the same university where I did my Ph.D.?	Yes
Can mentors be doctors/clinicians or clinical professors, if the research falls under CISE directorate?	Doctors in medical schools can be mentors if the research falls under the CISE umbrella. Clinicians/clinical professors may not be mentors.
Can my mentor and host institute be from the industry?	No
Can my proposed research are for postdoc be different from my phd research area?	Yes, absolutely.
Can my prospective mentor be faculty at the same institution where I will complete my PhD?	Yes.
Can the "Letter of recommendation from current research supervisor" and "Letter of support from proposed Mentor" come from the same person?	Current research supervisor cannot be your proposed mentor, so the letter writers should be different.
Can the applicant choose the starting date?	The current program will have start dates of September, 2020 and January, 2021. You will have the opportunity to select a start date preference on the application
Can the fellowship be conducted entirely remotely given the COVID travel/work restrictions?	Yes, you will need to explain your plan in the application.
Can the mentor be a Professor Emeritus?	Yes, as long as they are actively doing research.
Can the mentor be a senior or principal research scientist (non-tenure track) at a research university?	No
Can the mentor be from the same department that I received my PhD?	Yes.

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<p>Can the nature of research change a bit during postdoc - as a result of the ongoing work?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can two mentors (at different US institutions) jointly support a CI Fellow?</p>	<p>Yes, but you will need to have a primary host institution.</p>
<p>Can we change the mentor and institute after getting this award?</p>	<p>This is not the intention of the program. There must be extenuating circumstances which arise during the CIFellowship for this to happen.</p>
<p>Can we drop out of this prgram if we receive a job offer in this 2 year time?</p>	<p>The fellowships are for up to 2 years. If a Fellow receives a more permanent offer during the period, the leftover funds will be repurposed.</p>
<p>Can you elaborate about what should be included in the fellowship plan?</p>	<p>This is outlined in the FAQ and for you to work out with your proposed mentor.</p>
<p>Can you explain more about the definition of "1st postdoc"? My job title is not postdoc, am I still eligible for applying?</p>	<p>Your first non-permanent position after graduating with a PhD.</p>
<p>Can you have multiple appointments during the duration of the Fellowship? For example, can you be payed by an industry member as a contractor if you are in collobaration and it is related to your proposal and research?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Computing is a broad area, I am wondering if there is a more deatiled definition of the area of the research that is relavent to this fellowship. Are areas like optimization, applied probability theory, game theory and so on also considered relavent? Should research be associated with Covid-19?</p>	<p>Those areas are covered under the CISE umbrella. Research does not have to be COVID-19 related.</p>

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<p>Do I need to check with the institution about whether they would accept the post-doc position before I submit the application?</p>	<p>You need to have a plan worked out with your proposed mentor, ensuring they could work with you.</p>
<p>Do phd students graduating from non-CS departments, but looking for more computing research directions qualify? I am from physics department and work in computational neuroscience.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Do we have to report visa status?</p>	<p>It would be dishonest to apply if you are not able to work in the US. CRA cannot help with VISAs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Do you have a sense of how many fellowships will be awarded this year?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">At least 49</p>
<p>Does evidence of prior research success need to be in the proposed area (in other words, if we are proposing new research in an area we haven't worked, will that harm our chances)?</p>	<p>No, prior research success does not have to be in proposed area.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Does my PhD need to be funded by NSF CISE?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No.</p>
<p>Does one forfeit the fellowship if one is unable to start at the exact start date? for e.g. international students cannot always predict when their work permits will be approved</p>	<p>You need to be able to start either in September, 2020 or January, 2021.</p>
<p>Does that mean I have to do my post-doc in mentor's lab or I can stay in my phd advisor's lab and mentor is only kind of a secondary advisor?</p>	<p>You should be doing your postdoc with your mentor as your primary supervisor.</p>

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<p>Does the "mentor" mean the supervisor during postdoc? What if I'm still in the middle of searching for postdoc positions and haven't chosen a particular position yet? (But still plan to graduate in this year and start postdoc next year)</p>	<p>Mentor is the same as postdoc supervisor.</p>
<p>Does the additional letter of reference have to come from someone other than a PhD advisor? (say if a student has 2 PhD advisors, can one of them count as the additional reference)</p>	<p>Additional letter can come from anyone who can support your application.</p>
<p>Does the current supervisor has to be PhD advisor for PhD students?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Does the diversity requirement take into account the different sizes of institutions?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Does the mentor need to be in the computing area if the research is in the computing area?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Does the topic of the postdoc need to be related to computer science or are other topics such as controls areas eligible?</p>	<p>The research area needs to be under the CISE umbrella</p>
<p>For applicants interested in being remote or hybrid, will we need to declare and justify this in our application, or will that be worked out after awards are made?</p>	<p>That needs to be explained in your application.</p>
<p>For international applicants (with a US PhD), are there any visa requirements? Will the fellowship sponsor a visa or should the host institution look into it? Thanks!</p>	<p>We will not be handling any VISAs</p>

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<p>For people who have received NSF for predoctoral, will they be given preferences than folks who haven't?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>For postdocs finishing their first postdoc position. Do they need to start a 2nd postdoc in a different US institution and/or a different supervisor than their current one?</p>	<p>This should be a growth opportunity.</p>
<p>Hello, for non-resident with PhD at US institution, how the residency will be handled?</p>	<p>You need to determine this on your own.</p>
<p>Hello, if we get this fellowship, and later get another postdoc on the top, can we get both postdocs at the same time?</p>	<p>No, you can only be funded for one postdoc.</p>
<p>How are benefits (insurance, etc) covered? Are those covered by the indirect/fringe part of the award or the postdoc has to pay for them from their 75k salary?</p>	<p>The University will cover this through the fringe / indirect.</p>
<p>How are the mentor and your Ph.D. advisor submit their letters?</p>	<p>You will supply their email address in the application, and they will then receive instructions from cifellows2020@cra.org on how to submit.</p>
<p>How different should the research proposal be from my current thesis work?</p>	<p>You need to show career growth.</p>
<p>How do you evaluate applicants from traditional computer science field vs. applicants from social computing/information economics field?</p>	<p>We look at each application holistically.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">How does university tier level impact the approval process?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">It doesn't.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How is mentor's commitment demonstrated?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Through the way they write their letter.</p>
<p>I am an international student who will be graduating with my PhD degree in CS by July 2020 in a US university. What would be my visa status then? Will I be still a F1-student ?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">You will need to sort out your VISA status upon graduation.</p>
<p>I am thinking to form a Postdoctoral Fellowship Mentoring committee, which would include 3-4 faculty members. Could I include my current PhD mentor in my Postdoctoral Fellowship Mentoring committee?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">That is up to you.</p>
<p>I applied for permanent residency but it has not been finished yet, but I have employment authorization document and I think I can get green card before starting the program. Am I eligible?</p>	<p>You would need to be a permanent resident before the subaward is issued.</p>
<p>I currently work for my "first" postdoctoral fellowship since Feb. 2020 (will be expired at the end of 2020) but this is not my first career after graduation. I got my Ph.D. degree in May 2016 and I had worked in academia as a research associate and in industry as an engineer last three years, and then came back to here (a university) as a post-doc fellowship. Am I still eligible as an applicant?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>I graduated this Spring and have obtained a teaching position (100% teaching load). Am I eligible to apply for this fellowship?</p>	<p>We would hope that you feel lucky to be fully employed and leave this opportunity for those still looking.</p>

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<p>I hope to graduate by Dec 2020 and will be applying for this award. Will the award be revoked if I do not end up graduating by Dec 2020?</p>	<p>You need to complete your PhD requirements before beginning the CIFellowship.</p>
<p>I understand you are not encouraging explicit mentor-mentee matching this time. But are you planning to make the name of the potential mentors with their research interests available at the CIFellows page? That was very helpful last time!</p>	<p>We will not be doing a matching process for this program but there have been resources created by third parties for applicants/mentor pairing on social media.</p>
<p>Ideologically, how is this program different than directly contacting a PI and asking for a postdoc?</p>	<p>It comes with funding.</p>
<p>If a graduating PhD student receives funding, can they still teach a course in the university?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>If an awarded student is offered with a faculty position, can this fellowship be transferred to another student to continue the research project?</p>	<p>The unused funds will be repurposed.</p>
<p>If both the mentor and student are ready to start earlier than Spetember (say August), will that be allowed, given the proposed start date for the program is September 2020.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>If I submit two applications with different professors in different schools, can I use the same or similar proposal? Or do I need to write a different proposal for each application? Thanks a lot.</p>	<p>That is for you to decide how to have the strongest application(s).</p>
<p>If my research area is between multiple CISE topics, will there be an option to pick multiple areas?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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<p>If someone who is awarded the fellowship plans to finish their PhD sometime this fall, can they start the postdoc immediately or do they have to wait until January? If they have to wait until January can they be employed as research assistant in the meantime?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Must wait until January.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">If two mentors co-support an applicant, can the mentors be from different institutions?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p>If we have a committee member that is external to our institution, would that be less convincing to have them as the mentor vs. someone who is not on the committee (from the perspective of career-building opportunity)</p>	<p>No, you and your mentor need to make a case for what is best.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">If we submit two applications can we give an order of preference?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes, in the Optional Additional Information section.</p>
<p>If you accepted a faculty job and deferred for a year before the pandemic hit (so, faculty start date in 2021), but are now struggling to find a post-doc, would you be eligible?</p>	<p>This is a two year program. If you have a start date going in, then this program is not for you.</p>
<p>In the letter of support from the mentor, can you explain more about how to provide evidence of "lack of funding for support"?</p>	<p>They need to state that they do not have funds to cover you directly.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is it okay to apply for this funding while still applying for other job opportunities (early this summer)?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes, and we would hope that if you find permanent employment, you withdraw your application so others can potentially benefit.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is it possible that the proposal to be related to the mentor's research background which might not directly related to the applicant's research background?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>

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<p>Is it possible to be provided with some live info about which mentors/universities still have slots... choosing the right mentor might be complicated by the fact that that mentor's university might have a lot of applicants, thus reduce the probability of acceptance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p>Is it possible to find an independent postdoc through some US institution, not be funded by CIFellows, but still be part of the cohort and participate in its activities?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p>Is it possible to have international fellows from 2009-2011 cohorts provide some note on how they managed the visa process?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We cannot facilitate this at this time.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is it preferable for potential mentors to have mentored postdocs previously?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Doesn't matter.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is it preferred that Postdoctoral research should be different than the PhD work?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is the 2-page CV using the newly released CV guidelines?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">There are no set guidelines to follow beyond the page limit</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is the fellowship for exactly two years? Can it be accelerated and/or extended?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">It is intended to be for 2 years, not to be extended.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Is the fellowship plan the same as the Individual Development Plan?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The IDP could be a part of the mentorship plan.</p>

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<p>Is the mentor getting paid from the fellowship money? Should we include the details about the financial part of the project in the proposal?</p>	<p>No, the mentor is not getting paid.</p>
<p>Is the post-doc salary flat (\$75K) for everyone, irrespective of which state they are going to?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is the research associate position treated the same as post-doc?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is there a cap on number of applications by an applicant?</p>	<p>You can apply with up to two different mentors, each a separate application</p>
<p>Is there a cap on number of post-docs supported through this program at the mentor institute?</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Is there a limit on how many fellowships are expected to be awarded ?</p>	<p>Limited by the funds available.</p>
<p>Is there a potential of partial funding from the program? If the mentor has some funds which they can use, but won't be able to cover the entire two years, should they mention it in the application?</p>	<p>Yes, they should mention this in the application.</p>
<p>Is there a preferred twitter hashtag or whatnot for potential mentors to advertise willingness to serve as a mentor? I suggest #CIFellows2020 so students and faculty can self match</p>	<p>#CIF2020 or follow @compcomcon</p>

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Is there any availability of relocation funding? If not, should the mentor mention the use of university funds for this.	No
Is there any flexibility in the start date? E.g. October 2020?	The two start dates are to help with cohort building.
Is there any preference between recent graduated and soon-to-be PhD graduates?	No
Is there preference to COVID-19 projects?	No
Is this fellowship offered every year or it this being offered only because of COVID crisis?	This program is due to the current crisis.
It is mentioned on the website that applicants can work with their mentors remotely, while maintaining an office at a local university. That being said, can mentors be outside of the US (in Canada, the EU, etc.) while the student remains in the US?	No. Mentors must be tenure or tenure track faculty from a US institution
It's likely that the proposed mentor doesn't know me very well, how should I go about asking for a strong letter of support?	That is for you and the mentor to determine.
My green card interview postponed due to the pandemic. Can I mention this in my application?	Yes

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<p>My job title is "Research Associate" at a university. Functionally, I operate as a Postdoctoral Researcher, but words related to postdoc does not occur in my job description. Will I still be eligible to apply?</p>	<p>Yes, as long as it is a non-permanent position after receiving your PhD.</p>
<p>My preferred postdoc mentor is on sabbatical until March 2021 - would it be possible to make arrangements for that - either starting at the university with a different group temporarily, or starting the award in march?</p>	<p>The start dates are firm. You and your mentor need to figure out and propose a plan.</p>
<p>My research publication list spans almost 1.5 pages. The Academic CV for 2 pages does not make sense to me. Are we not supposed to list our publications in the CV?</p>	<p>The 2-page limit is a requirement.</p>
<p>on the CRA website, the funding for the CiFellow is described as "subawards" from CRA to the host institution to cover annual salary of \$75,000. If you already have funding from host institution, is the subaward added to that?</p>	<p>No, if you already have funding, you should not be applying.</p>
<p>Quick clarification: For current PhD candidates, the completed thesis document must be submitted by 12/31/2020 though the CRA/CCC application is due mid-June? Thanks!</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Re: Eligibility, should I even apply, as an international student? It states on the website that "Preference will be given to applicants who are U.S Citizens or have Permanent Residency" ?</p>	<p>Yes, you should still apply. It will be a piece of the evaluation criteria, but not detrimental to the application</p>
<p>Should the additional letter of recommendation come from the potential mentor?</p>	<p>No, this should be from someone else. There will be a separate letter that the mentor submits</p>
<p>Should the fellow physically be in the host institution? Or, is it allowed to do it remotely? Even outside of the country?</p>	<p>It is possible to be remote. You should explain your plan in your application.</p>

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<p>should the mentor be the exact person assigned to the postdoc in terms of research? Or should it be more mentor in terms of professional development?</p>	<p>The mentor should be involved in both research and professional development of the Fellow.</p>
<p>Since I am going to defend my PhD by the end of July 2020, is there any possibility to submit the application in early August?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Sorry, is the cap a limit on # of applications per university, or number of awards?</p>	<p>Number of awards.</p>
<p>The cap is by university, not department, correct?</p>	<p>Per University</p>
<p>The mentor I want to work with, is in the process of moving to a different University and will be starting from September 1 at the new University, will this affect my application?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The project proposal that we submit, does that have to be related to COVID-19. I just wanted to be sure.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The slide "common question" shown here now says that the PhD *or* postdoc must be completed at a US institution by some date in 2019. This is a contradiction to what was said before: PhD must be from US institution if being neither US citizen or permanent resident. Which of both is true? (Can I apply? No US citizen or permanent resident, PhD done outside of US, but first postdoc was completed 2019 in the US?)</p>	<p>We apologize for the confusion. The applicant must be either a US citizen / permanent resident OR have completed their PhD at a US institution</p>
<p>There are several reference to "CISE umbrella" but it is not easy to find what sciences and engineering fall under it.</p>	<p>https://www.nsf.gov/funding/programs.jsp?org=CISE</p>

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<p>To followup on an earlier question, if I recently started a postdoc (within the last month) with limited funding and am looking for funding to be able to actually sustain/complete the postdoc, am I eligible?</p>	<p>If you are currently in your first postdoc.</p>
<p>What does "fringe, and indirect (capped at 35%)" mean?</p>	<p>These are administrative terms for the University to cover your benefits such as health care and related fees.</p>
<p>What happens if recommendation letters are submitted late (after the due date)? The entire application is lost? Thank you.</p>	<p>Applications need to be submitted completely by the deadline.</p>
<p>What happens if the mentor leaves the institution during the fellowship?</p>	<p>We will work with the Fellow and Mentor to find a solution.</p>
<p>What is the checklist?</p>	<p>This is standard demographic information.</p>
<p>What is the deadline for submitting the applications? When will the evaluations begin?</p>	<p>This will be posted once the application goes live.</p>
<p>When will the evaluation panel composition be announced?</p>	<p>The committee is being finalized now and will be announced once it is complete.</p>
<p>Where can I get participation Universities? Does Non-tenure track research assistant professors be mentors?</p>	<p>Mentors at Research Universities must be tenure track</p>

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<p>While my PhD. is not from CS department, my research heavily involves research area(s) that falls under CISE and intend to work in the same area. Is that fine?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p>Will 2 applications (with separate mentors) be given less weight or evaluated tougher than a single application?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">They will be evaluated individually.</p>
<p>Will it be left up to awardees and mentors to figure out how they want to navigate a remote or hybrid arrangement? Or will the funding agency dictate how this will be handled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will my advisor need to submit the letter twice (once for each application?)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will the application be submitted through the university or the applicants?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicants</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will the mentor's funding situation impact the decision?</p>	<p>If the mentor has funding for you, then we hope that you will not apply to be a CIFellow, leaving the opportunity for others.</p>
<p>Will the review process prioritize applicants looking for an academic position long-term (e.g., faculty) over industry research positions (e.g., research scientist)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will the timeline be posted on the website?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Will there be additional funding to support research (e.g., data collection)?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Potentially, depending on the project.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will there be someone available to answer questions as we are completing our application?</p>	<p>For ongoing questions, please submit them through the Contact Form on the website. Once the application is released, we will update the FAQs based on submitted questions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will we be able to change the Award start date from September 2020 to January 2021, after we apply, in case of external circumstances like new regulations concerning OPT?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If there are extenuating circumstances.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would a mentor being from a better ranked University increase my chance of selection over a mentor from lower ranked University?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would it be okay to just apply for a shorter period of time (like 1 year)? Or it has to be 2 full years? Thanks!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The program is intended to be 2 years.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would the number of awardees be equally distributed across research areas?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Awards will be distributed across research areas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Will progress be monitored throughout the Fellowship?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes, CIFellows will be required to submit quarterly reports on their progress.</p>