




The Visiting Faculty Program (VFP)

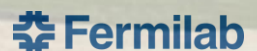
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“The Visiting Faculty Program (VFP) seeks to increase the research competitiveness of faculty members and their students at institutions historically underrepresented in the research community in order to expand the workforce vital to the Department of Energy (DOE) mission areas.”

“The experience enables visiting faculty to develop skills that translate to programs at their home institutions, which in turn helps sustain the scientific vibrancy required to grow the STEM workforce pipeline in key DOE science mission areas.”

U.S. Department of Energy



Overview

- University/college faculty collaborate with Fermilab scientists, engineers, and computing professionals on a research project of mutual interest
- Faculty members have the option to invite up to two students (one of which may be a graduate student) to participate in the project
- Faculty/student teams come to Fermilab for 10-weeks during the summer to work on the research project with Fermilab staff
- Option to work remotely or hybrid depending on the project
- Returning VFP participants can apply to participate in a 10-week program during the spring or fall terms

Overview

- The teams can return to Fermilab for up to 5 consecutive summers
- The application process includes a research project proposal co-written by the VFP faculty/Fermilab team
- The program is sponsored and managed by the DOE Office of Science's Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTS) in collaboration with DOE labs
- The Summer 2024 VFP session included 6 Fermilab-faculty teams!

Benefits of the VFP

- “Supports the professional development of faculty members who have the desire to increase the competitiveness of their own independent research at their home institution through scientific research collaborations with DOE laboratory scientists” - U.S. Department of Energy
- Faculty members build lasting relationships with Fermilab scientists/engineers/computing professionals and become familiar with the Fermilab user facilities
- Students strengthen their professional development skills (research project report and oral/poster presentation) and gain hands-on research experience
- Laboratory tours, scientific lectures, workshops, and seminars are available to faculty and students

Benefits of the VFP

- Participating faculty members receive a 10-week stipend of \$16,000
- Participating undergraduate students receive a stipend of \$650 per week during the internship (participating graduate students are supported by their home academic institutions and the VFP provides no additional stipend)
- Faculty and undergraduate/graduate students are reimbursed for their roundtrip travel expenses to and from Fermilab
- Housing is provided for faculty and undergraduate/graduate students

Eligibility Requirements - Faculty

- Must be a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
- Must be a full-time faculty member at an accredited U.S. college, university, or community college historically underrepresented in the U.S. research community
- Faculty members at a university categorized as R1 or R2 (Carnegie Classifications) are not eligible, *unless* the applicant is a faculty member at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- Must be a full-time faculty member in an area of physics, chemistry, biology (non-medical), engineering, environmental sciences, geology or geosciences, mathematics, materials sciences, or computer or computational sciences
- [List of ineligible institutions](#)

Eligibility Requirements - Students

- Must be a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
- Must be invited to participate by the applying faculty member
- Must be 18 years or older at the time the program begins
- Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student in an area of science, mathematics, engineering, or technology at the same university/college as the applying faculty member
- Must have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

Application Process

- All applications to the VFP program must be completed through the online application system
- Documents required for application:
 - Contact and Academic Information
 - Research Proposal
 - Essays
 - Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - Undergraduate transcripts
 - Two Recommendations
- The research project proposal is co-developed between the faculty and Fermilab team (project co-Principal Investigators) and submitted online
- Submitted proposals are reviewed by a technical review committee at Fermilab and evaluated based on three criteria (shown on next slide)

Application Process

“The merit review process evaluates three criteria, listed below in order of decreasing importance:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project, including DOE mission relevancy and the influence that the results might have on the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research; the likelihood of achieving valuable results; and the scientific innovation and originality indicated in the proposed research.
1. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach, including the logic and feasibility of the research approaches and the soundness of the conduct of the research.
1. Competency of the personnel and adequacy of proposed resources, including the background, past performance, and potential of the investigator(s); and the research environment and facilities for performing the research.”

Timeline for Summer 2025 Session

| Event | Date |
|---|------------------|
| Online application opens | October 16, 2024 |
| Applications due | January 8, 2025 |
| Offer notification period begins | February 5, 2025 |
| All DOE offers and notifications complete | April 16, 2025 |
| Start of Summer 2025 VFP | June 2, 2025 |

Next Steps

- Currently looking to establish Fermilab/faculty teams for Summer 2025.
- The VFP is competitive across the entire national lab complex, there isn't a quota per lab. We are encouraging as many proposals as possible!
- Interested in participating? Please fill out this short [Google form](#).
- Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues.
- Contact Kathrine Laureto (klaureto@fnal.gov) if you have any questions or comments about the program.
- For more information, visit:
 - [Fermilab VFP webpage](#)
 - [Department of Energy VFP webpage](#)

Thank you!

Questions?