

## The Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training

### Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases RISE Fellowship

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### Fellowship Description and Activities

###### 1. What is Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

The Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement (Ferguson RISE) Fellowship Program is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded summer program, 6-month (part-time), and 12-month full-time Fellowship program. The Ferguson RISE Fellowship provides research, education, and professional development opportunities for fellows interested in infectious diseases, public health, mental health, maternal and child health, and/or health disparities research. The overarching goal of the Ferguson RISE Fellowship is to promote diversity among future public health research leaders. Fellows may also gain clinical experience and develop leadership skills.

###### 2. When does the program start?

The Ferguson RISE Fellowship

- **6-month program** begins Saturday, February 1, 2025, and continues until Thursday, July 31, 2025;
- **12-month program** begins Monday, May 26, 2025, and continues until Friday, May 22, 2026;
- **Summer program** begins Monday, May 26, 2025, and continues until Thursday, July 31, 2025.

###### 3. What research experiences are available to fellows at the Atlanta site?

Fellows assigned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Rollins School of Public Health at Emory work with research mentors on a range of infectious disease projects and public health prevention, treatment, and epidemiological studies. Research experiences include laboratory science, epidemiology, public health policy, public health education, developmental disabilities, injury prevention, and emergency preparedness.

###### 4. What research experiences are available to fellows at the Baltimore, Washington, DC, and New York sites?

Fellows assigned to Baltimore and New York work with research mentors on projects related to infectious disease treatment, prevention, health disparities, mental health, developmental disabilities, and epidemiology. Fellows located at the Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC sites may participate in clinical, lab, and community

based on research experiences. Fellows may receive training in the conduct of community-based participatory research.

## Eligibility

### 5. What are the eligibility requirements of the Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

- Summer and 6-Month applicants must be currently enrolled as full-time students (as defined by their institution) in a graduate medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, public health, allied health, or social sciences program during the entire program.
- 12-month applicants must be recent postgraduates (post-master's/postdoctoral not enrolled in school) ONLY.
- Students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must be able to commit to the full length of the fellowship.
- Students must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or a Permanent Resident.

### 6. I am not an underrepresented student. Can I apply for the Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

All students enrolled or who have completed (within one year of start) a graduate medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, public health, allied health, or social sciences program interested in working in infectious diseases and health disparities research are welcome to apply.

### 7. Can international students participate in the Ferguson RISE Fellowship?

International students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visas) **are not** eligible to participate in the Ferguson Fellowship program.

### 8. I graduate from graduate school before the Ferguson RISE Fellowship starts, can I apply?

Yes, if you graduated from medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, public health, allied health, or social sciences program within one year of the Ferguson RISE Fellowship start.

### 9. Can undergraduate students participate in the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program?

The Ferguson RISE Fellowship is for graduate students and postgraduates (post-masters and postdoctoral) only.

### 10. Can students without health insurance apply to the Ferguson RISE Fellowship Program?

Applicants without health insurance can apply to the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program. All accepted students must have health insurance.

## Program Accommodations and Expectations

### 11. Do students receive a stipend for participating in the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program? Yes

12-Month Ferguson Fellows - Post Doc Stipend	\$61,428*
12-Month Post Master's Stipend	\$44,252
Summer Pre-Masters Stipend	\$8,001
Summer Post-Master's	\$8,936
Summer Pre-Doc Stipend	\$9,870

<b>6 Month Pre Masters (19 hours/week X 4 months + full time for 2 months=18.5 weeks)</b>	\$13,716
<b>6 Month Pre Doc (19 hours/week X4 months + full time X 2 months= 18.5 weeks)</b>	\$15,725

\*Further details are available upon acceptance.

**12. Are housing expenses included for participating in the Ferguson RISE fellowship?** The Ferguson RISE fellowship pays housing expenses during orientation. During the summer, the fellowship will offer dormitory housing at your site. Housing reimbursement may be available for 12-Month fellows up to \$15,000 annually. Any fellow moving to a new geographical region for an appointment may receive up to \$1,200 for relocation expenses.

**13. Are travel costs taken out the stipend?**

Travel costs are NOT taken out of stipends.

**14. Are meals program sponsored?**

Ferguson RISE Fellowship provides breakfast and lunch for students during the Baltimore orientation.

**15. Does the Ferguson RISE Fellowship count towards academic credit?**

The applicant's university/college determines if academic credit is granted for participating in the Ferguson Fellowship.

**16. The student's university/college determines if academic credit is granted for participating in the Ferguson Fellowship. How many hours per week should students expect to work?**

12-month and summer students should expect to devote 40 hours (full-time) per week to their research project and program activities during the fellowship. 6-month students should expect to devote up to 19 hours (part-time) per week during the academic and 40 hours (full-time) during summer of the fellowship.

**17. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start at a later date; take time off to work)?** No, see #2.

## **Application Details**

**18. How does one apply to the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program?**

The online application is available at [KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson](http://KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson)

**19. What is the best way to answer the essay questions?**

Applicants should provide logical, innovative, and referenced (if necessary) responses to the essay questions. As AI becomes more commonly used, it is of utmost importance that we read your unique words in the essays. If you choose to use AI, other than grammar and spell-check purposes, please cite AI as a reference within the essay box.

**20. What if my program is graded on a Pass or Fail only?**

Students who have successfully passed all courses may substitute that with a 3.0 GPA.

**21. What if my university does not provide unofficial transcripts?**

Students may request an official transcript for themselves and then upload it with other application materials.

**22. Who can write my two recommendation references?**

Two letters of reference from professors, clinical advisors, research advisors, teacher assistants, or academic advisors at your current or former university are **REQUIRED**. The referee should use their professional or university email address. A third referee is recommended (optional). Reference format includes a brief questionnaire and a letter of recommendation with up to 850 words. The letter of reference due date for **Ferguson RISE-6 Month is December 2, 2024**. The deadline for submitting letters of recommendation is **January 31 for Ferguson RISE-Summer and Ferguson RISE-12 Month**.

**23. Who should recommendation letters be addressed to?**

Please address recommendation letters to the “Ferguson RISE Fellowship Selection Committee”.

**24. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?**

There is a questionnaire and recommended questions to address for the letter of recommendation.

**25. When should I expect a decision letter?**

Decision letters are sent by mid-December for Ferguson RISE-6-Month. Decision letters are sent by the end of March for Ferguson RISE-Summer and Ferguson RISE-12 Month.

**26. How many applicants are selected to participate in the Ferguson RISE Program?**

The number of applicants varies from year to year. Slots are competitive.

**27. Where can more information on the Ferguson RISE Fellowship program be found?** Please visit our website, [KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson](https://KennedyKrieger.org/Ferguson) for more information on the Ferguson Fellowship.

**All program activities are contingent on CDC funding.**

**Email additional questions to: [Ferguson\\_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:Ferguson_Fellowship@kennedykrieger.org)**