



SeaBridge Fellowship Program

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

SeaBridge is excited to announce a call for applications for the SeaBridge Postdoctoral Fellowship program!

Background: The ability to reprogram human cells has the potential to revolutionize diagnostics, therapeutics, and the entire biotechnology landscape. The Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology (SeaHub) seeks to share this transformative technology across the Seattle biotech ecosystem, fostering scientific advancement and creating a dynamic environment for startup companies.

To achieve this goal, SeaBridge has been launched as a program to translate Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology's cutting-edge technologies into real-world applications. By integrating a postdoctoral fellowship training program (SeaBridge Fellowship Program) with a translational research center (LaunchPad), SeaBridge aims to train the next generation of scientists while advancing the commercial potential of Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology's unique genome engineering platform. SeaBridge Fellows will bring scientific expertise from local host laboratories, while Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology will provide expertise in cell programming and the necessary translational infrastructure through LaunchPad.

SeaBridge Mission Statement: *Our goal is to build bridges to make Seattle the global epicenter for human cell and genome programming. We aim to empower SeaBridge Fellows to develop cellular recording and sequencing technologies into impactful solutions that improve global health and drive the growth of Seattle's biotech community.*

SeaBridge Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Overview:

The SeaBridge Fellowship program offers two years of partial financial support, as well as structured career development, mentorship training, and networking opportunities. SeaBridge Fellows will work closely with mentors in the Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology to learn and apply Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology technologies to basic research questions that can then be applied to translational research. In addition, SeaBridge Fellows will have the opportunity to integrate into the SeaBridge LaunchPad to learn the ins and outs of starting a biotech company in Seattle. Finally, Fellows will opt into either Entrepreneurial or Discovery tracks; we provide each track with training to support the Fellows desired focus.

Program Structure:

- **Scientific Training-at-a-Glance:** For two years, SeaBridge Fellows will use cell programming technologies developed at the Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology to advance their specific research interests. Fellows working with an investigator in the Seattle area are encouraged to apply. Fellows will collaborate with a Seattle Hub for



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Synthetic Biology scientist to learn and apply Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology technology to their research questions in their postdoctoral lab. To learn about Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology technology, check-out [these publications](#).

- In Year 2, SeaBridge Fellows who wish to continue their work, deepen their integration with the LaunchPad, and have their project considered for a 'core' LaunchPad initiative, are encouraged to apply for a third year of funding. Fellows approved for a third year must participate in Year 3 mentoring and training. Extension RFAs are available upon request from the SeaBridge Fellowship Director. Fellows are required to meet with the Executive or Fellowship Director and their PostDoc Advisor(s) before applying to assess eligibility beyond Year 2.
- **Professional Development:** SeaBridge Fellows will be required to take one course based on their selected research track of interest (Discovery or Entrepreneurial). Additional training opportunities include courses or seminars offered by the UW Foster School of Business, Creative Destruction Lab, and other organizations. Fellows will be strongly encouraged to attend networking events hosted by Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology and by other institutions in Seattle to connect with industry scientists. See *Appendix, Tables 1-3* below for specific course requirements and networking opportunities.
- **Fellow Mentorship:** Fellows will be mentored by a Primary Advisor (their postdoctoral advisor) and a Secondary Mentor from Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology (Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Mentor). Fellows will be matched with their Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Mentor within the first year of their funding and will meet at least twice a year.
- **Mentorship Training:** SeaBridge Fellows will be required to attend a CIMER-based mentorship training in their first year of funding. Fellows are then required to mentor a postbaccalaureate trainee through the PROPEL Northwest program. SeaBridge Fellows and PROPEL NW postbac trainees do not need to be in the same lab to be paired. SeaBridge Fellows will meet with PROPEL NW trainees to provide guidance on graduate school preparation and career advancement. Fellows can continue mentorship after 1 year or mentor multiple postbaccalaureate trainees. If interested, SeaBridge Fellows can participate in curriculum development and implementation of workshops for the PROPEL NW program. See *Appendix, Table 1* below for specific time requirements.
- **Engagement with the SeaBridge LaunchPad:** SeaBridge Fellows will have the opportunity to gain start-up biotech experience by attending LaunchPad project planning meetings and contributing to projects, such as market research and pitch design.



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Application Information:

Applicants must propose a project that utilizes [Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology](#) technology and aligns with Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology goals.

Eligibility:

- Applicants should have no more than 36 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application.
- Ph.D. candidates who do not have their degree at time of the application deadline are eligible to apply. If awarded, the applicant's Ph.D. degree must be conferred prior to the start of the Fellowship.
- Applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens

Financial Support: Each Fellowship provides approximately 50% stipend support for two years (\$50,588 Year 1, \$53,001 Year 2) plus an additional \$10,000/year for research and career development (i.e., supplies, classes, networking events) and \$2,500/year to support conference attendance and travel.

Timeline: SeaBridge Fellowship applications are accepted on a rolling basis on the SeaBridge website application portal. Applicants are encouraged to apply at least 6 months prior to their targeted start date in the program.

Exclusion Criteria: Applicants will automatically be excluded from consideration if they do not meet the following criteria:

- a. Proposal does not include Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology technology.
- b. Applicant host PI already has a fellow embedded in the lab within 12 months prior to the potential applicant's start date in the SeaBridge Fellowship.
- c. Applicant has more than 3 years of postdoctoral experience.



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Information Sessions:

Let us know that you are interested in learning more about the program by filling out [this form](#). In addition, you can contact the SeaBridge Fellowship program by email at seabridgefellowship@uw.edu.

Detailed Instructions for Application:

Applicants must provide the following application materials through the SeaBridge Fellowship Application portal on the SeaBridge website. <http://seabridge.uw.edu>

- 1) **CV or NIH-style Biosketch.** Provide a PDF of your CV/Biosketch that includes current and pending support (amount, title, short description). No page limit.
- 2) **Personal Statement.** (1-page limit) Note, we specifically would like a statement on why you are interested in this Translational Fellowship and how your participation and proposed project will contribute to the Washington ecosystem.
- 3) **Proposed Research Project.** (2-page limit, including any figures or diagrams and references). Provide a narrative outlining the scientific premise and goals of the proposed research, how it advances your field and its broader impact on human health. Explain why technologies utilized by Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology scientists are critical to the success of this work. If the Fellow is pursuing the entrepreneurial track, specifically discuss how engaging with the LaunchPad will support your career development. If the Fellow is pursuing the Discovery track, specifically discuss how applying cell and genome editing technology to basic research questions will support your career development as a potential academic scientist. References may be in any format.
- 4) **Letters of Recommendation.**
 - a) *Letter of Recommendation from Ph.D. mentor.* (2-page limit): Provide a signed letter from your Ph.D. advisor.
 - b) *Letter of Recommendation from scientific advisor (postdoc advisor).* (2-page limit): A statement of support for the applicant from the faculty advisor describing a) why they believe this candidate is the best applicant for this fellowship, b) why this specific funding mechanism and training opportunity is important for this fellow's career development, and c) how the adoption of SeaHub science is critical for the success of this project. If applicants have two postdoctoral fellowship advisors, the applicant should provide a letter of support from their additional mentor.



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Instructions for Naming Application Files for Submission:

File	File Naming Convention
CV/Biosketch	[Date (MM/DD/YYYY)]_[last name]_CV.pdf
Personal Statement	[Date (MM/DD/YYYY)]_[last name]_PS.pdf
Letter of Recommendation from Ph.D. Mentor	[Date (MM/DD/YYYY)]_[last name]_LORPhD.pdf
Letter of Recommendation from Postdoc Advisor	[Date (MM/DD/YYYY)]_[last name]_LORPostDoc.pdf
Project Proposal	[Date (MM/DD/YYYY)]_[last name]_Proposal.pdf



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APPENDIX

Table 1. SeaBridge Postdoctoral Fellowship Curriculum for Year 1: Entrepreneurial & Discovery Tracks

Training Category	Training/ Workshop	Required or elective	Synopsis of training	Duration of training
Mentorship Training	CIMER	Required	Mentorship training offered 2x/year	One session, 3hr
Mentorship	Meet with Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Mentor	Required	Meet with Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology mentor to discuss science progression & career development	1-2x/year
Entrepreneurial Career Development: Entrepreneurship Basics*(*pick one course)	Health Innovation Practicum	Required	Students form teams around project concepts & present solutions to expert panel	Fall quarter, 2hr weekly sessions
	Tech Commercialization	Required	Examines commercialization process from idea to market working with UW scientists	Spring quarter, 1x/week virtually
Discovery Career Development: Grant Writing*(*pick one course)	ITHS Grant Writing Course	Required	Guided writing of an NIH grant with clinical focus	Fall quarter, 1x/week virtually
	Basic Science Grant Writing Course	Required	Guided writing of NIH R or K grant with grant submission	Meets virtually once/week for 8-10 weeks
Career Development	<i>Fellows' Choice*</i>	Elective	Workshop or seminar to support the career transition of fellow	TBD
Integration with LaunchPad & Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Networking	Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology All-Hands Symposium	Required	Fellows submit abstracts for oral presentations	~2x/year
	LaunchPad	Elective	Attend project planning meetings	2x/year
Seattle Networking	<i>Fellows' Choice*</i>	Strongly encouraged	Networking event that fellow is interested in attending	TBD



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Table 2. SeaBridge Postdoctoral Fellowship Curriculum for Year 2: Entrepreneurial & Discovery Tracks

Training Category	Training/ Workshop	Required or elective	Synopsis of training	Duration of training
Mentorship Experience	PROPEL Northwest	Required	Mentor postbaccalaureate trainees to help prepare them for graduate school	Required for 1+ year; Time commitment is >3hr/month
Mentorship	Meet with Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Mentor	Required	Meet with Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology mentor to discuss science progression & career development	2x/year
Career Development: Oral Communication	UW Comm. Leadership Program	Required	Workshop series taught by UW Communications professors	Pick 3 (~2hr) workshops to attend
Career Development	<i>Fellows' Choice*</i>	Elective	Workshop or seminar to support the career transition of fellow	TBD
Integration with LaunchPad & Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology Networking	Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology All-Hands Symposium	Required	Fellows submit abstracts for oral presentations	~2x/year
	LaunchPad	Elective	Participate in pitch design, market research, or propose experimental planning	TBD
Seattle Networking	<i>Fellows' Choice*</i>	Strongly encouraged	Networking event that fellow is interested in attending	TBD



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Table 3. SeaBridge Postdoctoral Fellowship Year 3 Extension*

*SeaBridge Fellows will need to apply to be eligible for a third year of funding during Year 2 of their SeaBridge Fellowship.

Training Category	Training/ Workshop	Required or elective	Synopsis of training	Duration of training
Mentorship	Meet with SeaHub Mentor	Required	Meet with SeaHub mentor to discuss science progression & career development	2x/year
Integration with LaunchPad & SeaHub Networking	SeaHub All-Hands Symposium	Required	Fellows submit abstracts for oral presentations	~2x/year
	LaunchPad	Elective	Participate in pitch design & market research	TBD
Seattle Networking	<i>Fellows' Choice*</i>	Strongly encouraged	Networking event that fellow is interested in attending	TBD
Additional Funding Opportunities	Various	Strongly encouraged	Apply for additional funding opportunities	TBD