



Fellowship Program 2017 Sponsor Timeline

Our goal is to restore function to the blind and visually impaired. To this end, we dedicate our research to investigating the functional implications of vision loss, early screening and access to treatments, optimizing rehabilitation therapies and developing accessibility technology.

Step 1 – Define Research Priorities

In collaboration with fellowship sponsors and ERI's scientific advisory panel, research priorities are identified and articulated. Targeted media outlets and potential mentors can be specified. Importantly, the purpose of the fellowship program is to develop career researchers in our priority areas. We are not defining specific projects or scientific outcomes from the candidates' work.

Step 2 – Soliciting Letters of Intent to Apply

ERI announces the availability of fellowships and solicits letters of intent to apply during **Spring 2017**. Letters include a brief description of the proposed research area, identification of desired mentor(s) and the applicant's CV. Applicants must hold a doctorate degree at the time of award (PhD, MD, OD, OTD). The director reviews the letters on the following criteria and invites applicants to apply:

- Applicant: Qualifications of applicant and potential for a research career
- Institutional Benefit: Potential impact and alignment with research priorities

As appropriate, direct advertisement of the sponsor's research priorities can be individually crafted for targeted distribution.

Step 3 – Application Development

Applicants develop their research and training proposal with the mentor or co-mentors that best support the candidate's scientific and career development, as outlined in the fellowship handbook. Applications are due **August 2017**. Applications are forwarded to the fellowship sponsors and scientific review committee.

Step 4 – Scientific Review

Applications are scored by ERI's scientific advisory panel and ad-hoc reviewers with appropriate scientific expertise for the research topics. The full reviews, scores and ranked applications are returned to ERI for funding consideration.

- Applicant: Qualifications of applicant and potential for a research career
- Scientific Merit: Significance of proposed research, feasibility of methods and approach
- Career Development: Training plan and support of applicant's future goals
- Institutional Benefit: Potential impact and alignment with Envision mission

Step 5 – Funding Decisions

Fellowship sponsors meet with the ERI director to discuss the panel reviews and scores, and to render a funding decision. ERI then notifies the awardees of their named-fellowship award. Awards are anticipated to be made in **Fall 2017**. ERI director and mentor work together to ensure candidate makes successful progress through the program according to an individualized development plan (IDP). Quarterly reports are made to the sponsor, and direct interaction between the sponsor and named fellow is encouraged.