

# PECASE Information/Requirements

## Selection Criteria

- Performance of innovative research at the frontiers of science, engineering, and technology relevant to the mission of the sponsoring organization or agency.
- Commitment to community service, as demonstrated through scientific leadership, education, community outreach or public engagement.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Awardees must be US citizens, nationals<sup>1</sup>, or permanent residents;
- Awardees may only receive one PECASE award;
- Awardees must be in good standing with his/her employer;
- Nominees must be conducting NASA-sponsored research in science, engineering, or technology development at NASA centers, universities, colleges or elsewhere.
- At the time of nomination to OSTP, the nominee must be in the **beginning of his or her independent research career**, which is generally defined as either:
  - a. in the first five years since receiving his or her first *competitively awarded federal research funding (as principal investigator)*,
    - Excludes funds secured during graduate school or postdoctoral training/fellowship and funds secured for training, fellowship, education, or career development.
    - Excludes NASA center internal awards
  - b. in the first five years of a tenure-track or equivalent academic or federal research position.
    - Since finishing graduate school or postdoctoral training/fellowship.

The total time since finishing graduate school (receiving highest degree) must be less than 10 years.

Exceptions to these guidelines may be granted, if merited by a particular field or individual circumstance: a written explanation must be provided for an exception that makes a clear case that the nominee is effectively in the early stages of his or her career.

## Selection of Candidates:

- NASA HQ organizations will submit candidates to the Office of Chief Scientist
- Candidates will be reviewed and selected by a senior level NASA-wide panel, established by the Office of Chief Scientist.

- For purposes of PECASE, traditionally underrepresented groups in science and engineering are defined to be women, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, African American, American Indian, or Alaska Natives.
- Final selection is made by the White House.

**Guidelines for funding:**

- Currently, *funding for each awardee must be provided by the nominating organization-  
-there is no central funding for PECASE awards.* The specific form of the award will be determined by the nominating organization, but should be equivalent to a \$200K grant; e.g. a grant of \$50K/year for 4 years.

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<sup>i</sup> The term "nationals" refers to native residents of a possession of the United States such as American Samoa.