



Big Science. Big Impact.

DISTINGUISHED STAFF FELLOWSHIPS












Begin Your ORNL Career with a Distinguished Staff Fellowship

Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Distinguished Staff Fellowship program—a highly competitive, prestigious early-career research opportunity—aims to cultivate future scientific leaders by providing dedicated mentors, resources, and enriching research opportunities at a national laboratory.

Targeted Research Directions

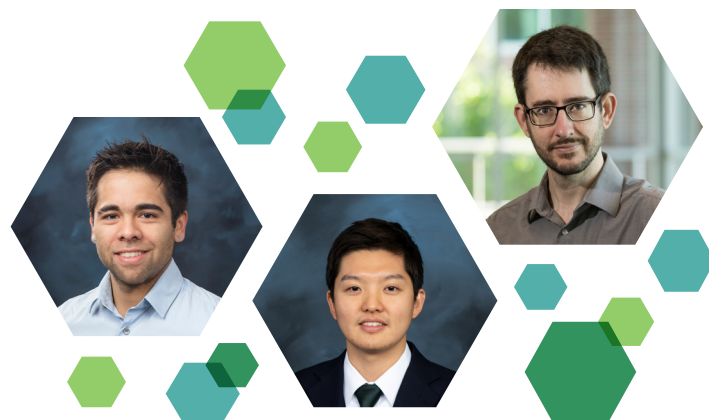
Distinguished Staff Fellowship candidates must demonstrate their ability to contribute to one (or more) of the following cross-disciplinary research initiatives:

-  Scale computing and data analytics to exascale and beyond for science and energy
-  Deliver transformational R&D to enable integrated energy systems and advancements in manufacturing
-  Discover and design next-generation materials and chemical processes for energy
-  Advance the impact and application of neutron science
-  Understand complexity in biological and environmental systems
-  Provide strategic capabilities in isotope R&D and production
-  Achieve breakthroughs in nuclear science, technologies, and systems focusing on fusion and fission
-  Deliver science and technology to address complex national security challenge
-  Elucidate the principles of fundamental physics and particle interactions

Fellowship Benefits

Our Fellows represent a broad range of disciplines and are found in research groups spanning the Laboratory's research missions. **We offer many opportunities.**

Our mentorship plan is designed to facilitate the successful integration of each Fellow into ORNL's scientific community and to align each Fellow's research activities with DOE missions. **We want DSFs to build long-term careers at ORNL.**



Our DSFs Excel at ORNL

Those who stay at the Lab after their Distinguished Staff Fellowship find out that the vital support they received as DSFs continues, paving the way for them to make important contributions as full-time research staff members.

Our DSFs go on to:

- Win prestigious awards, including the DOE Early Career Award, Presidential Early Career Award, Gordon Battelle Prize, and UT-Battelle Significant Event Award
- Patent new technologies and partner with industry
- Become leaders and elected fellows within national and international professional societies related to their research fields
- Head up new ORNL programs and serve as technical points of contact for DOE programs
- Serve as principal investigators, managing project staff

Ideal Location

Located near the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, ORNL's campus is just 1 hour away from the nation's most visited national park. Within a day's drive of all major cities on the East Coast, ORNL provides the best of both worlds: proximity to the great outdoors and growing urban centers with diverse cultural attractions. The city of Oak Ridge has 150 miles of shoreline for water recreation, rowing, and boating, and nearby Knoxville is home to the thriving research campus of the University of Tennessee and a historic downtown known for its dining, theaters, shopping, and cultural and music festivals.

In addition, East Tennessee is affordable, with a cost of living 8% lower than the national average* and no state income tax. It is one of the safest areas in the United States and has excellent school systems. Oak Ridge Schools is a top rated school system in Tennessee and maintains various STEM certifications.



Learn More: www.ornl.gov/who-we-are

* According to data provided by erieri.com on 1/1/2023.

Testimonials

“My fellowship allowed me to conduct independent research, broaden my scientific interests, and develop my professional network.”

—Chengyun Hua, R&D associate, Materials Science and Technology Division



“My fellowship helped me become an independent researcher and understand how to integrate my skill sets and research interests into major ongoing ORNL research projects.”

—Omar Demerdash, R&D Associate, Biosciences Division

“Being a Wigner Fellow has allowed me to grow my professional network, develop cross-disciplinary research collaborations, and continue on the path of becoming a thought leader in my research area.”

—Jacky Rios-Torres, R&D associate, Buildings and Transportation Science Division



“My fellowship allowed me to become both a technical expert and an independent thinker. I ventured into new research areas, connecting to fields previously unknown to me. Even a decade later, many of my fellowship experiences continue to drive new ideas and scientific exploration.”

—Petro Maksymovych, R&D staff, Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences

“My fellowship enabled me to help build the neuromorphic computing research area at ORNL. I also had the opportunity during my fellowship to focus on research that interested me and to build a base of work to support funding bids as I continue neuromorphic computing research at ORNL.”


—Katie Schuman, research scientist, Computer Science and Mathematics Division




Total Rewards and Amenities


Combined with competitive salaries, ORNL offers employees and their families a comprehensive and valuable benefits program. ORNL also has numerous on-site amenities that make life more convenient.


 401(k) Retirement Plan


 Generous Vacation and Holidays


 Pension Plan


 Parental Leave


 Medical Plan (Dental, Vision, and Health Savings Accounts)


 Employee Assistance Program


 Wellness Programs


 Employee Discounts

 Flexible Working Hours

 Life Insurance


 Educational Assistance

 Disability Benefits

 Relocation Assistance


 Legal Insurance with Identity Theft Protection


 Bank


 Coffee Shop

 Cafeteria

 Gym

 Exercise Classes

 On-Site General Medical Clinic

 Walking Trails

Fellowship Namesakes

Our fellowships are named for three renowned scientists who made significant contributions to their scientific field and held leadership positions at the laboratory: Liane B. Russell, Alvin M. Weinberg, and Eugene P. Wigner.



Russell Fellows are typically in the biological sciences, biomolecular chemistry, computational biology, and environmental and ecosystem sciences. Dr. Liane B. Russell was a groundbreaking geneticist at ORNL (1947–2002), and in 1973 she was the first woman to receive the internationally awarded Roentgen Medal. She achieved international recognition for her contributions to our understanding of basic mammalian genetics.



Weinberg Fellows generally align with the applied, experimental, and computational sciences and demonstrate competency in chemistry and chemical engineering, radiochemistry, materials science and engineering, nuclear science and engineering, and manufacturing science and engineering. Dr. Alvin M. Weinberg, ORNL's longest serving director (1955–1973), was a passionate advocate for nuclear energy with a strong interest in science policy.



Wigner Fellows are typically in the fundamental sciences and demonstrate competency in advanced materials, chemistry, computational science, neutron scattering, nuclear physics, and plasma and fusion energy sciences. Dr. Eugene P. Wigner was a 1963 Nobel Laureate in physics and ORNL's first director of research and development (1946–1947).

What You Need to Know to Apply

When you apply, you should:

- Have received your **PhD in a STEM field** before you begin the fellowship
- Be **no more than 5 years beyond receiving your highest technical degree** when you apply
- Demonstrated **leadership skills**, ability to cultivate **new lines of research**, a track record of **scientific excellence**, and a **proposal addressing ORNL's scientific mission**

Please note that current ORNL postdoctoral researchers and ORNL staff members are not eligible to apply.

Our program runs **three application cycles per year** (January, May, and September), all of which last 4 weeks. Job openings are posted on jobs.ornl.gov during open application windows. When the application window is closed, **provide your contact information** under the Apply Now button so we can notify you when the next application window opens.

**Make your Big Science Impact
as an ORNL Distinguished Staff Fellow!**

**Watch ornl.gov/careers/distinguished-fellowships
for announcements**

Questions? Contact ornlfellows@ornl.gov.