About the program

- Provides research experiences with USGS scientists and access to Survey facilities
- Positions the Fellow favorably for a future USGS hire (but it’s not guaranteed!)
- Full GS-12 salary and benefits for 2 years, with optional 2-year extension (if you find funding)
- Requirements:
  - U.S. Citizens (born or naturalized), with extremely few exceptions for non-citizens
  - PhD awarded no earlier than 5 years from the application opening date, or completed when employments starts
- Deadlines are variable depending on the project
  - All applications through USAJobs
Applying

• Choose a project aligned with your skills and goals
• Contact the sponsors *first* – they can help you develop your research proposal and give other guidance on your application

The research proposal (8 pages MAX):
  • research objective(s);
  • links to USGS science program strategy;
  • how and where research is to be conducted;
  • name of Research Advisor(s) -- listed in the Research Opportunity description;
  • required scientific facilities.
Applying

• Budget (get help with this!)
• References
• Required documents
  • CV (special format)
  • Transcripts
  • List of publications
  • Veterans preference documentation, foreign education documentation, etc.
• Be prepared for a background check if you’re offered the position
  • Identity documents, past addresses, character references
Successful applications

• Must address the **USGS scientific needs** described in the Research Opportunity

• Look for **key words and phrases** and make sure you talk about them in your Research Proposal AND your CV!

• Be succinct and give the most concrete plans you can

• Discuss the big picture

• **Don’t apply without coordinating with the Research Advisors**

• **USAJobs** is tricky – follow instructions to the letter!

• Check USAJobs often for updates on your status

• Make sure that the project is in a place where you want to live AND that you can afford the moving expenses
Contact me with questions!

Dr. Jessica Ball
USGS California Volcano Observatory

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