Language Science Fellows

Language Science Fellows (LSF) are a community of engaged graduate students training to become innovative, adaptable leaders in language science. They come from a range of departments and disciplinary backgrounds, and have a wide range of research and career goals. But they do have some goals in common:

- to develop a research program that integrates theory and/or methods from multiple disciplines;
- to take control of their graduate training, and learn skills not offered by their home department;
- to collaborate and work as a member of a diverse team;
- to change their community (educational, scientific, social, or civic) for the better.

What is the NRT?

The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program awarded UMD a $3M training grant (starting in 2015) for the project "Flexibility in language processes in technology: Human and global scale." This grant funds many of our Language Science Fellows through stipends and travel/research support. To participate in the NRT program, fellows must fulfill a few additional requirements, detailed below.

What do Language Science Fellows do?

Students in the program design an individual research and training plan based on their personal goals. The plans generally involve a number of activities outside the student's home PhD program, including:

- courses in other departments, or co-taught by faculty from other departments;
- regular participation in cross-departmental language science events, such as Language Science Day, Winter Storm, and Language Science Lunch Talks;
- interdisciplinary research experiences, such as a lab rotation, collaborations with students or faculty from other departments, or joining a multidisciplinary research team;
- workshops and mentoring related to career development, communication, and professional skills;
- participation in outreach to non-scientists, such as high schoolers or policy makers;
- internships in non-academic environments (e.g. industry or policy);
- leadership in student committees responsible for organizing community activities and events

Students in the NRT-funded track fulfill additional specific requirements:

- participation in a research team
- research that addresses the theme of "multi-scale data"
- a science policy experience

What funding is available?

All Fellows are eligible to apply for funding to support research-related expenses such as travel, supplies, or participant payments. Funding decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. All Fellows are also potentially eligible for some degree of stipend support. These funding decisions are made on an individual basis, depending on the availability of funds, the student's needs, and the quality of the student's research and training proposal.

LSF Applications 2017

Who can apply?

Application for the Language Science Fellows Program is open to ALL currently enrolled UMD graduate students in language science, regardless of citizenship, current funding status, advisor, or home PhD program. Fellows are expected to design and follow through on an individualized training and research plan, so students are encouraged to apply in their first or second year of studies to receive full benefits from participation.

Timeline

March 3	LSF information and Q&A session (2-3pm, HJP 2124)
March 10	**Letter of intent due**
March 13-17	Meetings to discuss proposals
April 10	**Proposal due**
May 5	Decision notification with brief written feedback
May 8-19	Meetings to discuss feedback on proposals
June 23	**Revisions due**

Letter of intent

The letter of intent is a brief (up to one page) communication of your intention to apply. It gives us some basic information about your research and goals so that we can advise you about how to create a successful proposal. Please create a single PDF document containing the following:

1. Letter of intent (up to one page) explaining:
   a. your research interests (in language suitable for a general language science audience)
   b. your goals in applying to the LSF program
   c. your existing funding plan for the PhD, including other fellowships you plan to apply for
2. CV
3. Academic records (unofficial transcript from Testudo is fine)

Send the PDF to Shevaun Lewis (shevaun@umd.edu) by noon on Friday, March 10. Upon receiving your application, Shevaun will schedule a meeting with you during the week of March 13-17 to discuss your proposal.

Proposal

The proposal describes an integrated research and training plan for the rest of your PhD. Please create a single PDF document containing the following:

1. Integrated research and training plan (up to 5 pages single spaced) explaining:
   a. your research interests and goals
   b. your goals for your career and the broader impacts you would like to have (on your scientific community or society)
   c. your PLAN to develop the research and professional skills you will need to accomplish those goals, including at least the following components:
      i. coursework within and outside your department
      ii. workshops offered by the LSC, the Graduate School, the Career Center, or elsewhere to develop research or professional skills
      iii. interdisciplinary research experiences, e.g. lab rotations, multidisciplinary reading groups, collaborations with students or faculty from other departments, multidisciplinary research teams (required for NRT)
      iv. opportunities to develop and practice your communication skills, e.g. Language Science Lunch Talks, lab or departmental meetings, journal publications, grant writing, undergraduate teaching, speaking or writing to non-scientific audiences
      v. opportunities to develop and practice your leadership skills, e.g. language science student committees, university student committees, event planning, leading a research team
      vi. outreach to non-scientists or advocacy to policy makers (required at least once per year)
      vii. NRT only: policy experience
2. Supporting documents:
   a. A table (about one page) summarizing your timeline (by semester) for courses, research, and other training activities, indicating which activities satisfy requirements for which program (e.g. Home PhD, LSF/NRT, NACS certificate, etc.)
   b. A non-confidential letter of commitment from your advisor(s), confirming that they endorse your research/training plan and commit to supporting your professional development.

Send the PDF to Shevaun Lewis (shevaun@umd.edu) by 5pm on Monday, April 10. In addition, have **two confidential letters of recommendation** sent to Shevaun by the same date. One of the letters should come from your current primary advisor. The other can come from any individual familiar with your academic abilities, whether at UMD or another institution.

Notification and revisions

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of LSC-affiliated faculty from several departments. Notification of program acceptance and funding decisions will be made in writing by Friday, May 5. Shevaun will schedule a meeting with you during the weeks of May 8-19 to discuss feedback and potential revisions to your proposal. Revisions will be due by Friday, June 23.