Oak Ridge National Laboratory's (ORNL's) Distinguished Staff Fellowship (DSF) 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 challenges
- 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 Laboratory 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 10% 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, including the Oak Ridge School District, one of two districts in the world that are K–12 STEM certified.

* According to data provided by erieri.com on 1/1/2022.
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 provided me with resources and freedom to pursue the most impactful research possible, which gave my career a jump start that I believe would be hard to find anywhere else.”

—Joe Lukens, research scientist, Computational Science and Engineering 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
ORNL is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified candidates, including individuals with disabilities and protected veterans, are encouraged to apply. ORNL is an E-Verify employer.

Questions? Contact recruiting@ornl.gov.

Find your Big Science Opportunity as an ORNL Distinguished Staff Fellow!

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

Questions? Contact recruiting@ornl.gov.