



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Eligibility

- 1. I am not a permanent resident or U.S. citizen. Can I apply?**  
Yes. Applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or permanent residents to participate in the program.
- 2. I am a part-time teacher. Can I apply?**  
Yes. Part-time teachers may apply.
- 3. I am not a middle- or high-school teacher. Can I apply?**  
Yes. Historically, we have accepted elementary teachers, pre-services teachers, college professors, and those who hold educational leadership roles at the district, state, or national level.
- 4. I am new to teaching and have very little experience. Can I apply?**  
Yes. Many factors are considered during the application review process, including educational leadership experience, classroom potential, and passion for public health. We look for applicants who demonstrate their commitment to bringing epidemiology and public health sciences into their classroom.
- 5. I applied in a previous year but was not accepted. Can I apply again?**  
Yes. Each year, we are looking for a mix of participants and are not always able to accept all qualified applicants. Therefore, we strongly encourage re-applicants.
- 6. I participated in the Science Ambassador program in a previous year. Can I apply?**  
Yes. We do accept alumni who have participated in the workshop in previous years. Alumni must submit a new application. Alumni spots are limited.
- 7. I do not have a background in public health. Can I apply?**  
Yes. Previous experience in public health is not required to be eligible.

### Application

- 8. What should I include in my personal statement?**  
Applicants accepted into the program in prior years have explained their interest in the fellowship and how it aligned with their career goals. Strong statements included examples of how they formally shared their work with teachers and steps they planned to take to promote public health within their teaching community.
- 9. How many recommendation letters do I need to have?**  
Every applicant must have one letter of recommendation.
- 10. Can I submit more than one recommendation letter?**  
No. Applicants should only submit one recommendation letter.
- 11. Who do I ask to write my recommendation letter?**  
Recommendation writers should be a school administrator (e.g., principal or headmaster), department chair, or a direct supervisor.
- 12. A friend who attended previously is encouraging me to apply. Should I ask him/her to be my recommendation writer?**  
We strongly encourage applicants to seek a recommendation writer who can speak to your skills and strengths.
- 13. I asked my recommendation writer to provide a recommendation but he/she may not be able to get it done by the deadline. Will you accept it late?**  
No. In order to provide a fair, open, and transparent system, the deadline date of 11:59 p.m. on February 15, 2017 is strictly adhered to.

For more information, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/scienceambassador/](http://www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/scienceambassador/)



**14. Will I receive a confirmation when my application has been received?**

The program coordinator will send a confirmation e-mail to the applicant when all the application materials (Resume, Personal Statement, and the Recommendation Letter) have been received. It is the applicant's responsibility ensure that all required forms are submitted prior to the deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Selection**

**15. How are fellows selected?**

The review process is open, fair, and transparent. Applications will be objectively reviewed by a selection committee. Applications are ranked and the top candidates will move on for interviews. The selection committee will then select applicants based on the written materials and the interview.

**16. Does everyone get interviewed? Accepted?**

No. Only applicants who receive high scores during the application review process will be asked to interview. Please understand that this fellowship is competitive and only the highest ranked applicants will be accepted.

**17. Will everyone be notified about their admissions decision?**

Yes. Notifications will be sent by e-mail. Interview notification will occur in early March. Acceptance notifications will go out no later than March 31.

**18. How many fellows are accepted each year?**

In 2017, we will accept 24 new fellows as Science Ambassadors and 6 alumni as Peer Leaders.

**General Questions**

**19. What is the estimated time commitment?**

The duration of the program is 1-year. In addition to the 5-day summer course held at CDC headquarters we expect fellows to commit to working remotely for approximately 5-10 hours per month. Prior to the summer course, fellows will be asked to complete an online course. During the summer course, fellows are expected to attend sessions each day from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. After the summer course, fellows may be asked to pilot public health lesson plans, present lesson plans at local teacher conferences or meetings, and consult on the development of public health based resource materials for middle and high school teachers nationwide.

**20. How long is the fellowship?**

Fellows are expected to attend the summer course from July 10-14, 2017 and participate remotely in the program from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

**21. Is the 5-day summer course mandatory for fellows?**

Yes. Fellows must attend the 5-day summer course July 10-14, 2017 held at CDC in Atlanta, GA.

**22. Will I be able to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for my Fellowship?**

Yes. The CDC is authorized by IACET to offer 4.0 CEU's for the summer course.

**23. How much does the fellowship cost?**

Participants are responsible for all costs related to the fellowship and summer course, including lodging, food, and transportation to Atlanta, GA. No other travel is required. The summer course is free of charge. Past participants have received grants to support costs. It is the fellow's responsibility to seek and acquire funding.

**24. What is the link between STEM and public health?**

Teaching epidemiology and public health science in the classroom engages students in learning experiences across STEM disciplines. By viewing STEM content through the lens of public health, students will develop an understanding of how information learned in the classroom translates into real-world disease control and prevention.

**25. Is public health a part of my State's Curriculum?**

Several states now accredit public health-related courses as part of a school science curriculum. To guide teachers in integrating public health into the STEM classroom or developing a new course in epidemiology and public health, CDC has developed a set of competences for public health sciences that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Critical Components for an Undergraduate Major in Public Health. CDC has also compiled examples of how to transform CDC resources and non-CDC resources into classroom materials.

**Other**

**26. I did not see my question listed. What should I do?**

Send us an email at [scienceambassador@cdc.gov](mailto:scienceambassador@cdc.gov)