

ABOUT THE FSN-IL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Opportunity Overview

The Feed the Future **Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab** (FSN-IL), led by Tufts University and supported through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is pleased to announce **eight FSN-IL training fellowships for 2024** for emerging scholars and students from Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, as well as Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in the United States. Funding can be used to support applicants with the costs of training and/or short courses (online or in-person) focused on technical issues relevant to food loss and waste, food safety, and enhanced access to nutrient-rich foods. The maximum amount per award will be up to **\$5000 USD**.

Award Details

- Training fellowships will support expenses associated with enrolling in an online or in-person educational program offered by local or international institutions targeting food systems in low- or middle-income countries (LMIC).
 - Examples of trainings eligible for reimbursement include but are not limited to the [Global Food Security Certificate](#) or the [Sustainable Food Systems Graduate Certificate](#).
- Training fellowships may be used to help cover tuition and fees and related expenses if the activity is in-person. Expenses eligible for reimbursement are demarcated by an “X” in the following table:

	Online Training	In-Person Training
Tuition and fees	X	X
Maximum per diem rate as indicated by U.S. Department of State guidelines		X
Economy airfare Travel must be booked through Tufts' Travel Collaborative to be compliant with the Fly America Act, as required by USAID.		X
Lodging		X

- The fellowship award amount of \$5000 USD is inclusive of economy airfare costs and is only considered a qualified expense if the training is in-person AND the training is far from the applicant’s town, city, or country of residence.
- An advance will be sent to the fellow upon execution of the agreement. The advance will be based on the U.S. Department of State maximum per diem rates according to location (foreign per diem rates by location look-up tool: [link](#)).
- **Training must focus on one or more of FSN-IL’s technical areas:**
 - Prevention of food loss and waste
 - Enhancing food safety
 - Improving availability of, and access to, nutrient-dense foods
 - Metrics for monitoring food systems impacts on nutrition

- Priority will be given to applicants who can also demonstrate that their activity will consider the following cross-cutting themes:
 - New or validation of existing metrics on food systems for nutrition
 - Support for improvements in the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, with a specific emphasis on gender and youth
- Funding will be awarded for activities between **April 2024 to December 2024**.
- In 2024, a maximum of eight training fellowships will be awarded.

Who is an FSN-IL Training Fellow?

- Emerging scholars working in food systems or health and nutrition in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, or Nepal; or students (undergraduate, graduate, PhD, post-doc) enrolled in a food systems or health and nutrition program at an accredited university in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, or Nepal; or students enrolled in a food systems or health and nutrition program at an institution designated as Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) by the United States government ([list](#)).
- Individuals seeking to enroll in a food system and/or innovation training. Training can include short courses, certificate programs, and/or workshops if the course material and accompanying applicant narrative demonstrates substantive engagement with key food systems and innovation concepts.

Deliverables

Upon completion of the funded activity, applicants will submit a 750-word report summarizing key takeaways, lessons learned, and how the experience has contributed to their professional goals.

Additional Information

Fellows will be invited to participate in additional engagements like policy and academic seminars, webinars, and scientific symposia hosted by the FSN-IL team. Awards must be spent prior to **December 31, 2024**.

Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted through the online application portal, Piestar, by **March 30, 2024**. To start your application, you will need to create a user ID and password in Piestar: ([link to Piestar](#)).

Review Process

Applications will undergo evaluation by an internal team of technical experts from Tufts University. We will match reviewers with applications based on their expertise to ensure an informed review.

Contact Information

For any inquiries, please email foodsystemsnutrition@tufts.edu and address your message to Nour Elshabassi.

Timeline Summary

- Deadline for application submission: **March 30, 2024**
- Selected Fellows can be expected to be notified by: **April 30, 2024**
- The first disbursement of funds will be 85% of the award and issued prior to the training. The second and final installment will consist of the remaining 15% of the award and be issued upon receipt and approval of the final report.
- Final date to expend funds: **December 31, 2024**

*Fellowships are not renewable or deferrable; all travelers must adhere to their university's travel guidelines.

FSN-IL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Checklist to be included with the application:

- A letter of recommendation from either an academic advisor or work supervisor who can speak to the candidate's expertise in food systems and nutrition and articulate how this opportunity aligns with their skills, knowledge, and career goals.
- CV/Resume
- Proof of employment in a relevant field, enrollment in a health and nutrition or food systems program at an accredited university in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, or Nepal, or enrollment in a food systems or health and nutrition program at an MSI.
- Syllabi or overview of the intended food systems innovation training opportunity
- FSN-IL Training Fellowship template downloaded from the website, completed, and submitted with the electronic application.
- Electronic application