The LEAD Houston Fellowship: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

CATEGORY 1: GENERAL APPLICATION

- What is the application due date?
  - All application materials are January 21, 2019, for this funding opportunity.
- Where is the application located?
  - [http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/](http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/)
- What program should I select when applying for the Master’s in STEM Education?
  - CUIN, MED; Summer 2019; Specialization: STEM
- Do I need to take the GRE?
  - If your undergraduate GPA is 3.0 or higher then you do not need take the GRE. All other applicants must submit their GRE scores.
- Is there a minimum score I need on the GRE?
  - There is no minimum requirement for the scores.
- How old can my GRE scores be for the University to accept them?
  - GRE scores expire after 5 years.
- Do I need transcripts if I went to UH?
  - Yes, we ask that you still submit your transcripts.
- Do I need to submit transcripts from a community college or for coursework that did not result in a degree?
  - Yes, we need transcripts from all coursework completed prior to applying for this program.
- Do we need to remain in Houston the entire five years of the program?
  - Yes, that is a requirement.
- Do I need to be in the classroom?
  - Yes, applicants must be teaching in a classroom setting at least part time.
- What grade levels/subject should I teach to qualify for this program?
  - Grades 6-12, math or science content
- What happens if I decide to or need to leave the program after the first year (master’s coursework)?
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- See Figure 1 for the exact protocol provided by the National Science Foundation

- I am an instructional coach/specialist/coordinator, do I qualify for this program?
  - You must be in the classroom (of your own) at least part time.

- What if I already have a master’s degree, can I still apply to this program?
  - Yes, you can still apply and earn an additional master’s degree.

- I teach special education classes or ESL classes, but they cover specific math or science content, do I qualify for this program?
  - Yes, please discuss the content you cover in your application essay.

- What if I have an H1B visa, can I still apply?
  - NSF requires that all scholarship recipients and stipend recipients must be U.S. citizens or nationals, or permanent resident aliens.

**Category 2: Master’s Coursework**

- Is the master’s coursework completed in person or online?
  - This is a hybrid program. Some of the coursework will be online; some will be face-to-face.
  - See Figure 2 for a tentative schedule.

- Will this master’s degree qualify me for the TEXES Principal Certification exam?
  - No, there is separate program for this provided by the University of Houston.

- Will this coursework allow me to teach college level math or science courses?
  - No, this will not provide you with the number of hours needed in the content area to teach college or university math or science courses.

**Category 3: Professional Development**

- Will the summer professional development or master’s summer coursework interfere with my school’s summer school?
  - Yes, it is possible that this may interfere with summer school. As such, the program provides a $10,000 stipend each year for the four years following the master’s coursework.

- What happens if I am unable to complete the years for the fellowship?
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- Please see Figure 1 for clarification on this matter.
- Is there a way to double up on courses and complete the program early?
  - No, this program is based on a cohort model.
- Is there a professional development schedule for us to view?
  - Please see Figure 3 for a tentative schedule.
- When is the next webinar?
  - Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6 p.m. (CST) Click here to join the webinar about the program.
  - Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6 p.m. (CST) Click here to join the webinar about the program.

Figure 1. NSF policy regarding stipends

The scholarship/stipend/fellowship may revert to a loan, meaning that the recipient will be required to repay all or a portion of the scholarship/stipend/fellowship, if the recipient:
- fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the program in which the individual is enrolled;
- is dismissed from the program or institution for disciplinary reasons;
- withdraws from the program before the completion of such program;
- declares that the individual does not intend to fulfill the teaching service commitment; or
- fails to fulfill the teaching service commitment.

If such circumstances occur before the completion of one year of the teaching service commitment under any track, the total amount of scholarship or stipend received by the individual must be repaid.

If the circumstance described occurs after the completion of one year of the teaching service commitment, one-half of the total amount of salary supplements received by the individual must be repaid.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 17-541

Figure 2. Tentative Master’s Coursework; subject to change
## Cohort 1 Sequence (subject to change for cohort 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Big Ideas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issues in Science &amp; Math Education</td>
<td>Culturally responsive teaching (CRT), STEM integration, equity, social justice, teacher leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Engineering Design</td>
<td>History of engineering education, standards, issues, engineering design methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUNI Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>Initial development of Capstone Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Science/Math with Technology</td>
<td>Role of technology in teaching STEM concepts; practical application of theories in technology; inquiry-based instruction of STEM concepts; reflection on learning outcomes with chosen instructional practices; Professional seminar focus on research in education, community education, and technology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Math Instruction in the Secondary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUNI Professional Seminar I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education in a Multicultural Society</td>
<td>CRT, equity, social justice, theories of multicultural education and application to lesson development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum and Development in Science &amp; Math</td>
<td>Social &amp; political factors in curriculum development in STEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUNI Professional Seminar II</td>
<td>Teachers as leaders, best practices, equity &amp; social justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Design in Math and Science</td>
<td>Project-based learning infused with engineering education; finalize capstone project and presentation; August graduation</td>
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### Figure 3. Tentative Professional Development Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer NMSI LTF Courses (Years 1-3)</td>
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<td>Summer NMSI LTF Train the Trainer (Years 4)</td>
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<td>Virtual and Face to Face Fall and Spring Meetings (Years 1-5)</td>
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<td>Summer PD on Coaching (Years 3)</td>
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<td>MTFs serve as Mentor teachers to Preservice Teachers (Years 3-5)</td>
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<td>CRT Self-Reflection Analysis (Year 1)</td>
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<td>Summer PD on CRT (Year 2)</td>
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<td>CRT infused lessons taught by MTFs STEM classes (Years 2-5)</td>
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<td>Summer PD on Policy Advocacy (Years 4-5)</td>
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<td>MTFs lead PD (local effort) (Years 4 and 5)</td>
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<td>MTF receive stipends in two installments per year (Year 2-5)</td>
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