

# SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

## LINKS Fellowship Program

### LINKS Graduate Fellowship Application

**Please send this form to:**

GK-12 Program  
Mariana Bergerson  
Science Center 107-D  
Saint Joseph's University  
5600 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Deadline for receipt of applications is April 1; early submission is encouraged. Fellowships for this year will begin in August 2009, and continue through mid-June 2010. **Please note that you must also complete the standard Saint Joseph's University Application for Admission to the Graduate Programs.** This may be requested from the Graduate Admissions office at 610-660-1101 or it can be downloaded from <http://www.sju.edu/admissions/apply.html>

#### Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Social security number \_\_\_\_\_

#### Statement of Interest

Attach a short essay that addresses the following:

- List the research topics that you are presently most interested in pursuing for your M.S. studies. List any specific faculty members you are considering.
- What interest and/or experience do you have working with children under 12 years of age, either in an educational or other setting?
- What interest and/or experience do you have working with people who have backgrounds different from your own?

#### Transcripts

Attached \_\_\_\_\_ On file in Admissions Office \_\_\_\_\_

If you have complete transcripts on file at the SJU Graduate Admissions office, please indicate that here. Otherwise, attach unofficial transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate coursework that you have completed.

#### Letters of Recommendation

You may include with this application a supporting letter from a teacher, employer, or other person especially qualified to address your qualifications for the LINKS Fellowship. You may also ask those who are sending your recommendation letters to the SJU Graduate Admissions office to consider your qualifications for the Fellowship.

*For further information, contact Mariana Bergerson at [mbergers@sju.edu](mailto:mbergers@sju.edu) or 610-660-1809*



# SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

## **National Science Foundation GK-12 & LINKS (Learning Involving Neighborhoods, Kids, and Science)**

### **Fellowship Programs**

In 1999 the National Science Foundation began funding Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12). This program places graduate and advanced undergraduate students into K-12 schools as a part of their training in science. Since 2002, Saint Joseph's University has been funded by a GK-12 grant. Each year 4-6 M.S. students and two undergraduate juniors or seniors will be selected for Fellowships. Graduate GK-12 Fellows receive 12-month stipends of up to \$30,000, and their graduate tuition is paid by the grant. Graduate LINKS Fellows receive 10-month stipends of up to \$18,000, and a full tuition scholarship. Typically, first-year grad students enter as Graduate LINKS Fellows and apply for the GK-12 fellowship in their second year of study. Undergraduate Fellows receive summer stipends of up to \$5000, in addition to free University housing, and academic year undergraduate stipends of up to \$5000. To be eligible for the Fellowships, students must be participating in research in Biology or Environmental Science with a participating faculty member. Graduate Fellows must be accepted into the M.S. program in Biology. All Fellows must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.

The SJU GK-12 and LINKS program involves a partnership with the Wagner Free Institute of Science (WFIS) as well as the School District of Philadelphia. Fellows work with WFIS children's educators and elementary school teachers to develop and present science lessons to children in grades 1-6. The lessons are organized into semester-long units, generally with Environmental Science themes. Fellows and their SJU faculty mentors serve as content resources for the WFIS educators and the public school teachers, and they are also role models and teachers for the children. WFIS educators and public school teachers help Fellows become familiar with pedagogical methods in K-6 education and with the special educational needs of the children they serve. No prior experience with K-6 education is required, but reliability, flexibility, and a willingness to work as part of a multidisciplinary, multicultural team are necessary.

Fellows receive training during a week-long workshop in August, and they are also involved in training sessions throughout the academic year. They meet weekly with the GK-12 director and at some training sessions they are expected to lead discussions on topics relevant to their GK-12 activities. Fellows prepare documentation of lessons presented, develop instructional materials, and participate in ongoing assessment activities of the program. GK-12 guidelines require that Fellows spend 15 hours per week on their GK-12 duties, with at least 10 hrs in the classroom. For graduate Fellows, these duties replace the lab preparation and teaching duties normally performed as a part of paid assistantships.

