

PRISM K-12 TEACHER FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

PRISM is a National Science Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (NSF GK-12) program that awards fellowships to eligible graduate students and K-12 teachers. Each PRISM Teacher Fellow partners with a PRISM Graduate Fellow to develop and implement compelling, inquiry-based science lessons. Our Graduate Fellows are Ph.D. students from Emory University who are studying to become scientists and college professors. Together, each teacher-graduate student team attends a two-week Summer Institute to learn about problem-based learning (PBL) and investigative case-based learning (ICBL) pedagogy. You will spend time together at the Institute and over the summer developing original problems and cases, and adapting existing materials for use in your classroom. Your graduate student partner will assist you in implementing the cases in your class, spending an average of about 10 hrs/wk at your school (actual time spent in the classroom will typically fluctuate from week to week, but you will collaborate to make specific plans).

This year, PRISM is an abbreviated program, from June through December 2012 (plus one full day in January 2013). Even still, the program is an intense partnership with a graduate student and requires a significant commitment of time, including a two-week summer institute (June 18-29) and three planning days (one each in July, September, and January). Teacher participation also requires an average of 2 hrs/wk during the summer and fall *outside of class time* to plan with your graduate student, develop and revise lessons, and complete monthly reports. Ultimately, you will gain significant practice in the development and implementation of problem-based learning lessons and you will publish your materials on CASES Online (<http://www.cse.emory.edu/cases>), sharing your work with educators around the world.

IMPORTANT APPLICATION DATES

Apr 2, 2012	Application Deadline
TBA	Group Interviews, Center for Science Education, 1399 Oxford Road
Apr 16, 2011	Award Notification
Apr 23, 2011	Deadline for Acceptance of Award

ELIGIBILITY

PRISM is open to science teachers in middle schools and high schools within Atlanta Public Schools, City Schools of Decatur, DeKalb County Schools, and Fulton County Schools. Previous experience with PBL is not required. Former PRISM Teacher Fellows are not eligible, but may apply for the Emory-HHMI Teacher Fellowship. Applicants must have the experience and skills to mentor a novice educator in classroom management and student assessment. Applicants must have permission of their principal to participate. We prefer applicants from schools that have other current applicants or former PRISM Fellows (i.e., a team of PRISM teachers at the same school). Teachers who are participating in summer school or have other lasting summer obligations are strongly discouraged from applying because PRISM is so time-intensive.

AWARD INFORMATION

All PRISM Teacher Fellows receive a \$3,000 stipend for full participation from June-December 2012 (plus one full day in January 2013). The stipend is distributed in two payments: August 2012 (50%) and January 2013 (50%). Failure to participate in program activities or meet the responsibilities listed on pages 5 and 6 of this document may result in an adjustment of stipend at the discretion of program administrators.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. For what kind of teacher is PRISM looking?

The PRISM Fellowship is ideal for teachers who want to spend the time and energy to reflect on and improve their teaching practices. We are looking for critical eyes, innovative spirits, and open minds. We want teachers who are willing to try student-centered teaching techniques that give more responsibility for learning to the student. We need teachers who welcome the opportunity to work with a Graduate Fellow inside and outside the classroom. We want someone who is willing to mentor the Graduate Fellow in classroom management, lesson planning, and assessment of student learning. We want someone who will be available for all PRISM professional development days, and who will meet with his/her Graduate Fellow weekly throughout the summer and fall to plan collaboratively. We prefer applicants from schools that have other current applicants or former PRISM Fellows (i.e., a team of PRISM teachers at the same school).

2. In this partnership, what are the roles of the teacher and the graduate student?

The Teacher Fellow will serve as a mentor to the Graduate Fellow with regard to teaching, curriculum planning, and classroom management. The Graduate Fellow will provide content expertise and serve as an enthusiastic role model of a young scientist/mathematician to your students. It is important to note that the PRISM Graduate Fellow is not a student-teacher nor a tutor. Graduate Fellows may or may not have had prior teaching experience, and they are not studying to become K-12 teachers. PRISM Graduate Fellows are enrolled in Ph.D. programs in a variety of science disciplines (e.g. Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology). They are participating in PRISM to become better scientists and more confident professors by practicing and improving their teaching, communication, and research-dissemination skills.

3. How will the PRISM Teacher Fellowship benefit me?

The PRISM Teacher Fellowship will provide you with an opportunity to develop and implement innovative science and math lessons to engage your students in the science behind real world phenomena. Your students will become motivated investigators, self-directed and life-long learners, critical thinkers and keen problem-solvers. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to reach this goal, but PRISM gives you the time, the training, and the resources (including your stipend, graduate fellow partner, and a professional learning community of other PRISM Fellows) to develop what works best for you and your students. You will have the opportunity to present your work at regional conferences, publish your cases online and in scholarly journals, and lead your colleagues in implementing this exciting pedagogy. You will become a key component in the bridge we are building between K-12 schools and universities. In partnership with graduate students, faculty, and staff from Emory University, you will join a cadre of dedicated science educators who are transforming K-12, undergraduate, and graduate science education to ensure a scientifically literate public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.prism.emory.edu>. For questions about PRISM or the application process, contact Jordan Rose at 404-712-9242 or jordan.rose@emory.edu

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Part A: Online Survey

Complete the survey available at <http://www.prism.emory.edu/app/teacher.cfm>

Part B: Teacher Materials

1. Résumé or curriculum vitae
2. Written Statement - In a 2-4 page, double-spaced, typed statement, please include the following:
 - a. Your name and school in the document header
 - b. What makes you a good PRISM applicant? Why are you interested in the PRISM Fellowship? How will you benefit from participation in PRISM, and how PRISM will benefit from your participation?
 - c. What challenges do you foresee in partnering with a graduate student in and outside of your classroom, and how do you intend to address those challenges?
 - d. Reflect on your most challenging times as a teacher. What went wrong? Why? What did you try to fix it and how well did it work? What could you do differently? What evidence of success would you look for?
 - e. Any other information that might help us to choose you

Assemble all Part B items together in a single DOC or DOCX file and email it to Jordan Rose at jrose14@emory.edu. Name the file "YourlastnamePRISM12.docx" (e.g., my file would be called RosePRISM12.docx).

Part C: Letter of Support

1. Signed Cover Sheet
2. Letter of Support

Ask your principal to complete these materials and submit them directly to Jordan Rose at the Center for Science Education by the PRISM application deadline. The Cover Sheet must be signed by the applicant and the principal. The Cover Sheet is available at <http://www.prism.emory.edu/app/teacher.cfm>

All application materials must be received by 5pm on April 2, 2012.

Applications are not considered complete until all parts have been received. Late applications will not be reviewed. Contact Jordan Rose (404-712-9242) to check on the status of your application.

FELLOWSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Overview:

- **Mentor** graduate student partner during curriculum development and classroom implementation of problems and cases
- **Meet weekly*** with your graduate student partner outside of class time to develop cases, plan implementation, reflect and develop case notes, etc. (at least **1 hr/wk during summer and fall**). **These meetings must be face-to-face meetings or phone conversations; emailing is not sufficient.*
- Spend at least **1 hr/wk for independent work**, including case preparation, completion of evaluation instruments, and monthly reflections (see below)
- Submit **Monthly Progress Reports** (2-page forms outlining work accomplished and reflecting on experiences).
- Develop, implement, and submit ≥ 8 **Cases** for publication on our CASES Online website, which serves as a resource to educators in Georgia and across the world.
- Attend one **Reflection & Planning Session** each semester with PRISM staff during planning periods or after school.
- Attend events listed below and additional program meetings as needed.
 - **Summer Institute**. June 18-29, 2012. 8:30am-4:30pm.
 - **Summer Planning Day**. July 27, 2012. 9am-4pm.
 - **Fall Planning Day**. September 2012. 9am-4pm.
 - **Demo Day**. January 2013. 9am-4pm.

Exact program dates TBA. Participants will be notified at the Summer Institute of all program dates.

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Pre-Fellowship Events

- **School visits.** We will arrange for your Graduate Fellow partner to visit your school.
- **Kickoff Picnic** (date TBA). This is a social event that occurs prior to the official commencement of the Fellowship. Payment will not begin until summer 2012.

Summer Specifics:

- **Attend the Summer Institute** from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday June 18-29, 2012. Some evening work is necessary (readings, team meetings, brief tasks).
- **Meet weekly** with Graduate Fellow to continue case development and planning.
- Develop **Fall Implementation Plan** outlining when and how cases will be implemented.
- Attend **Summer Planning Day** (July 27, 2012) and submit current versions of case materials

Fall Specifics:

- Attend **Fall Planning Day** (September) and update Fall Implementation Plan
- Submit final versions of **case materials** (December)

Spring Specifics:

- Make **30-minute presentation** giving a brief overview of cases implemented, example of successful case including student products, and reflections on the PRISM experience to faculty, school administrators, next year's PRISM cohort, and guests at **Demo Day** (January 2013)

What you can expect from PRISM:

- Meals, beverages, and/or snacks at PRISM meetings, as appropriate
- Support for classroom implementation of curricula, including additional facilitators, technical support, supplies, etc.
- Professional development in job application process, teaching philosophy development, etc.
- Feedback from PRISM staff on progress and materials.
- Stipend distributed in August 2012 (50%) and January 2013 (50%).