

Detailed Information and FAQs

When are applications due?

The [application portal](#) will close on February 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

When does the fellowship start and end?

This is a two-year fellowship. It starts on June 16, 2020 and ends in June 2022.

What attributes are you are looking for in fellows applicants?

LSX Fellows candidates should be mid-career and experienced enough in their own fields to understand the value of seeking out new opportunities for collaboration and communication of ideas in different sectors. We are seeking candidates who are well positioned to bring new insights back to their respective fields while also helping to advance interdisciplinary approaches to communicating and applying the science of learning.

What are the benefits of becoming an LSX Fellow?

LSX Fellows will have the unique opportunity to learn from deep discussions with each other and with experts in a cross-section of fields while simultaneously exploring exciting issues at the intersections of science, social entrepreneurship, journalism, entertainment, and policy. Over two years, fellows will work together on projects that elevate the insights of the learning sciences for new audiences and meet face to face at four two-day meetings (one of which will be the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development) and a fifth meeting at the culminating LSX Summit in 2022. The intent is to learn from other experts, share important lessons with each other about how to communicate with the public, and advance a project related to early childhood development and learning that would be strengthened with the infusion of ideas from talented people in other sectors. Each fellow will receive a \$5000 stipend and all travel costs covered for conferences and meetings. (In addition to the meeting at SRCD 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota USA, and the LSX Summits in 2020 and 2022 in Washington, DC, at least one other meeting will be held at the Jacobs Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland).

Are there any deliverables that fellows must complete?

Yes. Over the course of the two-year program, LSX fellows will be responsible for 1) creating a collaborative project or prototype of a product in teams, 2) writing an article or blog post to be featured on the Jacobs Foundation website, the BOLD blog, or on New America's EdCentral blog, and 3) presenting a polished LSX talk at the culmination of the fellowship in the summer of 2022. These talks (think of them as modified TED Talks) will be part of an LSX Summit that is live-streamed and brings together top thinkers, do-ers, and funders in multiple sectors who are seeking innovative ideas for advancing insights in early learning and development.

Is there an age requirement?

No. Because we are seeking applicants who have already had some experience in their respective fields and are eager to explore intersections with other fields, we expect that we will primarily attract applicants who are in the middle of their careers. However, less experienced persons are also encouraged to apply if they feel comfortable enough to bring new insights back to their respective fields while also helping to advance interdisciplinary approaches to communicating and applying the science of learning.

Is this a full-time fellowship?

No. The expectation is that fellows will continue in their current jobs throughout the fellowship time period. The time commitment includes five face-to-face meetings from 2020 to 2022 as well as phone and online meetings, and regular email engagement.

What travel is required?

Fellows will need to attend at least five meetings:

- 1) June 16-17, 2020 in Washington, DC: LSX Summit #1. (Also: all are invited to participate in an accompanying SRCD workshop on effective science communication on June 18.)
- 2) Fall 2020 in Zurich, Switzerland: A two-day workshop and team-building meeting
- 3) April 8-10 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota: A two-day workshop and conference sessions at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting
- 4) Fall 2021 at location TBD: Workshop and team-building meeting
- 5) June 2022 in Washington, DC: LSX Summit #2

Why are you requesting applications from different sectors?

To date, members of these sectors—learning science, social entrepreneurship, journalism, policy, and entertainment—are working on projects with significant implications for the way societies and policymakers support families, children, and the processes of learning and development. They are either studying, reporting on, creating narratives around, or making policies with the intent to support human development. Yet, each sector is isolated from the next. A mutually enriching, reciprocal exchange is sorely needed. It will allow us to create a shared culture about the early years, thereby making the dissemination of information easier as well as more accurate.

What are some examples of what can come from this type of exchange of information and ideas?

Several examples illustrate the power of such an exchange. The three teams that emerged from the current class of LSX fellows have come up with appealing, parent-facing products that use humor, beautiful illustrations, and easy-to-digest messages to highlight new findings from research in how children learn language skills that build literacy, why it is important to respond

to children's gestures and questions, and the importance of establishing loving relationships from the very beginning of a child's life. LSX teams are currently at work on a Hollywood-produced, live-action public service announcement about book-reading with young children; a board book about attachment for children and their parents that would kick off a series of books with characters that grow as children grow; and a messaging campaign with captivating conversations told from the point of view of a baby, designed to help parents but also to prompt policymakers to invest in efforts to support young children and families.

Other examples might include the use of texting or gaming platforms, social networks for new exchanges of ideas or questions, publishing outlets that provide news-you-can-use to policymakers, and any other programs, products, or approaches that help to communicate the science of learning to policymakers, parents, teachers, and anyone who works closely with young children. We believe that by working across sectors and at the intersection of science and communication, new ideas can blossom and the possibilities are endless!