

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If you would like to submit a question about the conference, please use our [Question Form](#).
The FAQs will be updated as more questions are received.

1. Q: Do I have to attend the EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference?

A: Yes. Please see your EPA Fellowship Assistance Agreement under Special Terms and Conditions. Attendance at the Fellowship Conference is mandatory for all Fellows, and a portion of the \$5,000 expense account is to be used to pay for your travel and accommodation costs.

2. Q: Can my spouse, significant other, or children come to Washington with me?

A: Yes, spouses, significant others, or children may accompany conference participants to Washington, DC.

3. Q: What hotel is close to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Building?

A: The Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW, Washington, DC, (202) 737-2200.

4. Q: Is there a block of rooms assigned to the EPA STAR Fellowship conference?

A: Participants will have the option to stay with friends and relatives during the 2009 EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference. For your convenience, we have a block of 30 overnight rooms (discounted rate - \$233 per night plus tax) at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center for Sunday, September 20, 2009, and Monday, September 21, 2009. We have an additional 10 overnight rooms for Tuesday, September 22, 2009. These rooms are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. The overnight rooms will be held until August 24, 2009; after this date, they will be released back to the hotel. To make reservations, please see the logistics page.

5. Q: Can I bring my spouse, significant other, children, and friends to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Building for the Conference Proceedings and Reception?

A: The AAAS building is restricted. Access to family and friends is not authorized.

6. Q: Do I need Photo Identification to enter the AAAS Building?

A: Yes. A valid driver's license and/or employment badge is required.

7. Q: Will day care be provided while attending the conference?

A: No. Day care services are not available at the AAAS Building.

8. Q: Will there be a registration fee associated with the 2009 EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference Co-Sponsored by AAAS and NCSE?

A: No. There are no conference fees.

9. Q: Will I have to pay for my own meals?

A: Yes. Participants are responsible for paying for all of their own meals. At the conference, EPA will provide suggestions about area restaurants and eateries. Federal governmental policies prohibit EPA from providing your meals. Please see the list of local restaurants and eateries ([RestaurantList.pdf](#)).

10. Q: Can I stay with friends and/or family members?

A: Yes. For your convenience, we have a block of 30 overnight rooms (discounted rate - \$233 per night plus tax) at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center for Sunday, September 20, 2009, and Monday, September 21, 2009. We have an additional 10 overnight rooms for Tuesday, September 22, 2009. These rooms are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. The overnight rooms will be held until August 24, 2009; after this date, they will be released back to the hotel. To make reservations, please see the [logistics page](#).

11. Q: Is EPA providing any assistance with travel arrangements?

A: No. Participants are expected to make their own ground and air transportation arrangements and should do this early to avoid possible complications.

12. Q: Which Airport is closest to Downtown Washington, DC?

A: DCA (Washington National Ronald Reagan Airport). The DC Metro goes from the airport to a stop 1 block from the AAAS Conference Building. For more information, see the [logistics page](#).

13. Q: Is there parking at the AAAS Building?

A: Yes. Metered parking and garages are located near the AAAS Building. Metered parking is not encouraged. The best way to get to the AAAS Building is by Metro or taxi. For further information about the Metro system and a Metro map, please visit <http://www.wmata.com>.

14. What are the parking fees and average taxi fares in Washington, DC?

Q: What are the closest Metro stops?

- A:
- Metered parking is usually for 1 to 2 hours at a time and requires quarters. However, you may be ticketed if you park at a meter past the allotted 1 or 2 hours, despite having money in the meter.
 - Parking at local garages usually costs between \$17 and \$33 for the day.
 - Taxi fares range from \$10 to \$75, depending on the destination in the city.
 - The nearest Metro stops are:
 1. AAAS Building: Metro Center. Use the 12th and G Street exit; once on 12th Street, travel north 1 block to H Street—the AAAS Building will be on your left.
 2. Ronald Reagan Building: Federal Triangle and Metro Center are close.

15. Will there be a reception in honor of the Graduate Fellows?

Q:

A: Yes. Our co-sponsors are sponsoring the reception on Capitol Hill.

16. What is the dress code for the reception?

Q:

A: The dress code is Business attire, which includes ties, jackets, dresses, and business suits.

17. What is the dress code during the conference meeting?

Q:

A: The dress code is Business Casual, which includes khakis, polo style shirts, button-down shirts, skirts, and slacks.

18. Will Fellows be required to prepare a new poster for the 2009 EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference?

Q:

A: Yes. Every current EPA Fellow is required to prepare a poster about their research with results to date. We are requesting posters to be submitted in the original PowerPoint template, which will be incorporated into the electronic/Internet Program Guide. See [poster guide page](#).

19.

When should I display my poster?

Q:

A: You only have to send in a the PowerPoint version. If your poster is selected by the EPA Communication staff from all the e-file posters that will be online to be displayed at the Capitol Hill reception, then it will be printed by EPA staff and posted at the reception. There will be about 20 posters that will be displayed, and you will be informed in advance if your poster is selected.

20.

What are the poster requirements?

Q:

A: Additional information on poster guidelines is available at: See [Poster Guidelines](#).

21.

What software is required to view posters online?

Q:

A: Poster files can either be MS PowerPoint or Adobe PDF. If you would like to view these posters, you will need to have [MS PowerPoint Viewer](#) or [Adobe Acrobat](#) installed on your computer.

22.

Should I change the font sizes on the poster in respect to scaling up?

Q:

A: No, simply replace the placeholder text with your own. The Header, Subheader, and Body text placeholder fonts are already set to the appropriate size for scaling the poster up for print.

23.

Will EPA print my poster for me?

Q:

A: Yes, but only if it will be selected for display at the Capitol Hill reception.

24.

Will hardcopies of the Program Guide be available onsite?

Q:

No. We are requesting all participants to print the Program Guide from the Web site and bring it to the conference with them. Also, you can bring your computers to the conference and access the Conference Web site.

25. Should I send a copy of my biography and abstract to be included in the 2009 EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference Program Guide?

Q:

A: Yes. Please prepare two separate paragraphs. One paragraph is your abstract and the second paragraph is your bio. Both should be in Word format (both paragraphs combined should be limited to 500 words). Be sure to identify your

paragraph submissions with your full name, title of your research project, name of your university, start year of your fellowship, your current personal e-mail address, and your current cell or land phone number. NOTE: Please send a copy of your poster abstract to Andre Porter via e-mail and cc: Gladys Cobbs-Green for reference.

26.

Will I have to give an oral presentation?

Q:

A: No formal presentation will be required. However, you will be asked to stand by your poster during the reception to answer any detailed questions.

27.

Will there be a Poster Evaluation Form?

Q:

A: Yes. However, that will be provided on the Web site before the conference. Each Fellow will be given a list of Fellows' names, but at this point we do not know how many there will be. Once you get your list, you will be asked to review each Fellow's poster that is on your list and complete a poster review form for each Fellow. You will be able to complete an online evaluation form before the conference, and every Fellow will get a copy of the reviews of their work.

28.

Will there be a Conference Evaluation Form?

Q:

A: Yes. An online conference evaluation form will be available on the Web site after the conference ends. You will be able to complete an online evaluation within 3 days following the end of the conference.

29.

Will there be representation from the Grants and Interagency Agreement Management Division (Formerly Grants Administration Division) and Las Vegas Finance Office?

A: Yes. This year, we will have representation from both the Grants and Interagency Agreement Management Division and the Las Vegas Finance Office. Both representatives will be available each day from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to provide guidance. They will be located on the second level in Conference Room 200.

30.

If I have additional questions, whom should I contact?

Q:

A: Contact your assigned EPA Fellowship Project Officer if you have any additional questions. If your Project Officer is unavailable, please e-mail Gladys Cobbs-Green (cobbs-green.gladys@epa.gov), Ted Just (just.ted@epa.gov), Andre Porter (porter.andre@epa.gov), or Denise Hoffman (dhoffman@scgcorp.com).

31.

When is the next EPA Graduate Fellowship Conference?

Q:

A: The next conference will take place in September 2011, in Washington, DC.