

NASA has issued the following waiver that is effective from December 22, 2020, through March 31, 2021. This waiver only applies to HST General Observer, Archival Research and NASA Hubble Fellowship grants. This waiver is not applicable to JWST – ERS grants.

The United States domestic residency requirement specified in Clause H.12 SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE INSTITUTE USER FUNDING of Contract NAS5-26555, the STScI General Grants Provisions and the NHFP Policy Guidelines is temporarily lifted for NASA Hubble Fellows and General Observer/Archival Researcher (GO/AR) Grants. The temporary waiver expires March 31, 2021.

Each Recipient Institution will make the final determination if it is possible for Hubble Fellows or Grantees to be supported while outside the United States. The Recipient Institution has the final authority on the regulations and laws related to the terms of employment and must comply with the institution's telework policy, U.S. laws and regulations, and the foreign jurisdiction's laws and regulations.

The waiver is in place with the understanding that Hubble Fellows and Grantees are not using NASA-furnished IT equipment, they are not logging into NASA systems, and the data being used is in the public domain.

NASA temporary suspension of the U.S. work requirement does not in any way remove the institution's obligation to abide by export licensing or other applicable regulations associated with working in a foreign country.

STScI GRA Conditions for Grant Recipients:

1. No supplemental funding will be provided to the grant for any increased costs associated with working remotely including outside the U.S.
2. All other grant provisions, conditions, and guidelines remain in effect, including all other eligibility requirements. The waiver of the residency requirement does not permit an Investigator or Fellow to establish a temporary, interim or permanent affiliation with a non-U.S. Institution while working outside the United States.
3. The Recipient Institution will make the final determination on whether it is manageable to support the Investigator or Fellow while abroad.
4. The Investigator or Fellow and their Institution must ensure that all actions are consistent with the policies, processes, regulations, and requirements of: the Institution; the U.S. State Department; visas; employment laws; the health care provider; and tax laws and implications (U.S. and abroad).
5. The Investigator or Fellow and their Institution may be affected by other policies, regulations, or laws, depending on the location of the Investigator or Fellow. The Recipient Institution has the final authority on the regulations and laws related to the terms of employment.
6. The Investigator or Fellow and their Institution shall continue to abide by all public laws, Federal regulations, the NHFP Policies and Guidelines, the STScI General Grant Provisions, and NASA policies as applicable.

7. The Investigator or Fellow is responsible for all costs to travel to and from their established location within the U.S. or abroad. Travel costs (including relocation) associated with the choice to work outside of the U.S., or from any location other than the Institution, are not an allowable expense and will not be reimbursed from grant funds.
8. The Investigator or Fellow and their Institution will be responsible for any taxes associated with working outside the U.S., or in a state other than where the Institution is located.
9. The Investigator or Fellow and their Institution acknowledge that the Fellow will be personally responsible for all incurred health costs while outside of the U.S.
10. All purchases (laptops, etc.) must be in accordance with the procurement policies of the Institution. All tangible items such as equipment, computing devices, supplies and materials, and all other items obtained with grant funds must follow the disposition requirements contained in the STScI General Grant Provisions or NASA Hubble Fellowship Policies.

Additional guidance for NHFP Fellows:

1. The Fellow's Faculty Contact at the Institution must submit their approval, to STScI Grants Administration, of the Fellow's continued research while outside of the U.S. The approval must be submitted via Special Request in STGMS.
2. The Fellow and their Faculty Contact at the Institution must agree to a plan for the Fellow's research while the Fellow is working outside of the U.S.

[End]