

Temporary Policy Waiver during the COVID-19 Pandemic for:

Personnel on Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) General Observer/Archival Researcher (GO/AR) Grants

Non-U.S. citizens located outside of the U.S.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, graduate students, postdocs, or investigators (hereafter referred to as personnel) who are located outside of the U.S., may be having difficulty entering the U.S. due to visa delays or travel restrictions. As a result, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) have agreed to temporarily waive the requirement for these personnel to be in the United States to be eligible to receive funding support from HST and JWST grants.

The visa process is handled by employer institutions. If an institution can legally offer employment or a stipendiary position to a person who is temporarily located abroad, and the person is otherwise eligible to receive grant support in accordance with the General Grant Provisions (GGP), Section 3: Eligibility (**pages 2 – 3***), the following waiver is approved:

Temporary Waiver: Personnel who are unable to enter the U.S. due to difficulties obtaining a visa or due to travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may receive funding support while outside of the U.S. With the exception of having to be in the U.S., all other eligibility requirements remain in effect (**pages 2 – 3***).

No other waiver is expressed or implied. If there are other special circumstances, contact STScI Grants Administration regarding your situation.

This waiver is in effect until the person obtains a valid visa and entry in the U.S., or **until December 31, 2020**; whichever comes first.

Institutions shall still abide by all public-laws, Federal regulations, the STScI General Grant Provisions, and NASA policies as applicable.

Exception: This waiver does not apply to non-U.S. personnel who are voluntarily located in a foreign country and have the ability to return to the U.S. To continue receiving financial support from an STScI grant, personnel in this status must return to the U.S. as

soon as possible, and are expected to be in residence at their institution in accordance with the institution's reopening policies. If there are special circumstances, contact STScl Grants Administration regarding your situation.

This includes both personnel on grants that have been awarded to an institution, and for personnel on pending grant awards.

Late openings

Some institutions may not be able to open their campuses this fall according to their regularly scheduled academic year. Personnel with an institution in this category may begin or continue their grant-related research off-campus, until the institution implements its reopening policy. This applies to personnel who are located in the U.S. as well as abroad.

() STScl funding shall not be used in any way to support non-U.S. investigators or their activities. All program personnel including but not limited to PI's, Co-I's, postdocs, students, visitors, other research personnel, and support staff, must meet the eligibility requirements of a U.S. investigator. A non-U.S. investigator is anyone who does not meet the following criteria.*

A U.S. Investigator is a:

U.S. citizen residing in the United States or abroad whose salary is paid only by a U.S. institution, and who does not have a formal or contractual relationship (funded or unfunded) with a non-U.S. institution.

OR

U.S permanent resident or foreign national investigator working in the United States whose salary is paid only by a U.S. institution, and who does not have a formal or contractual relationship (funded or unfunded) with a non-U.S. institution.

Named investigators must meet the eligibility requirements at the time of budget submission and throughout the duration of the grant. If not eligible at that time, an investigator does not become eligible for funding on the program if they transfer to a U.S. institution at a later date.

Unspecified or TBD positions cannot be filled by any person who has a formal or contractual relationship (funded or unfunded) with a non-U.S. institution. This includes, but is not limited to visitors, exchange students, and fellows. Eligibility must be met prior to receiving grant support and throughout the duration of the grant.

Note that a U.S. investigator may receive grant support for project-specific work while on approved sabbatical at a non-U.S. institution (if employed by the U.S. institution during sabbatical).

Temporary service on an advisory panel or acceptance of an honorarium for an invited talk at a non-U.S. institution does not make a U.S. investigator ineligible to receive grant funding.

[End]