



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Fellowships are great but **YOU** are more important

Antonino Cucchiara, Ph.D.

NASA Program Scientist (FINESST, NHFP, Fermi)

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Who am I?

- I am immigrant (J1, F1, J1, 212(B), H1B, GC)
- English is NOT my first language
- I did a PhD, 2 Postdocs (1 NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellowship)
- I was a Faculty at an HBCU and at a Community College
- I study Gamma-ray Bursts

What are my “successes”?

This is a provocative talk, but
resources are at the end



Are any undergraduate students in the room?

Are there any Graduate Students?

Are there any Postdocs?

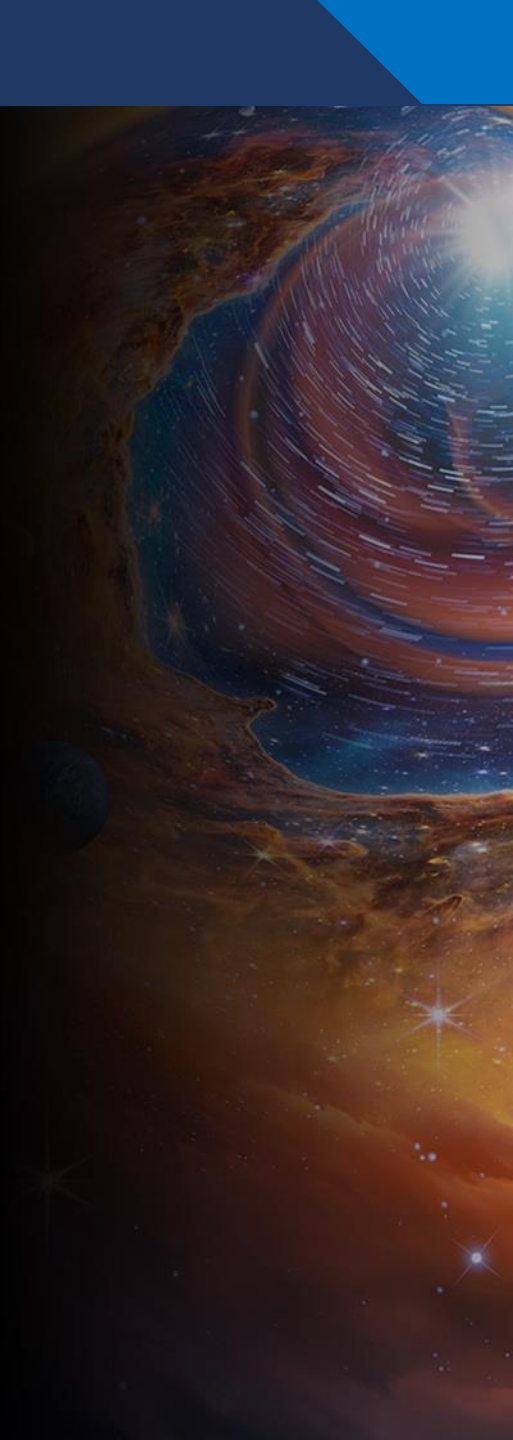
Anybody else?

I could just give you a list of many opportunities to go on in your career, the fellowship I am managing on behalf of NASA or talk about mentoring.

But let's start from the number one question:

What does make you happy in life?

(hint: is not a paper)



The story of a young postdoc and a prospective graduate student

Any scientific career at the end of the day, is a job. **So it is being a watchmaker.**

So, before looking at those advertisements think about:

- Where to apply (city or country, west or east, US or abroad, ...)
- What type of job (part-time or full time internship, postdoc or faculty, top univ. or small, ...)
- What sacrifices you are willing to make (2-body problem, family ties, money vs. success vs. happiness)
- How much time will I invest in applying

The guiding principle should always be the pursuit of happiness

It is important you learn who YOU are, what makes you happy, and clear your mind of all the clouds and veils that make you “think” you know who you are.

Try things, talk to mentors, to students, ex-scientists. Members of your professional societies (e.g. NSBP, NSHP, AAS, Umoja,) and others that have been in the same situations before you.

I am an observational astronomer! (Do not hand me a piece of equipment or I will break it...maybe not. A new theory?...ahahah!)

I love to teach and make a difference in my students lives.

Career Options

Undergraduate

- REU
- NASA Internships
- Travel grants
- Local Networking
- Conferences networks
- Professional societies
- International
- DOE/DOD

Graduate

- Internships
- NASA Internships
- Fellowships
- Grants
- Conferences
- Prof. Societies
- Advisor's network
- Your network

Postdocs

- Fellowships
- Grants
- Faculty position
- Conferences
- Your network
- Prof. Societies

AT NASA

FINESST: [Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology \(FINESST F.5\)](#)

FINESST funds graduate students research for up to 3 years (\$50k/yr) to conduct investigations and technology development projects relevant to NASA (Astro and other NASA divisions).

Non U.S. Citizen are ALLOWED to apply.

Deadline is February 5, 2025.

Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP): <https://www.stsci.edu/stsci-research/fellowships/nasa-hubble-fellowship-program>

NHFP is the most prestigious postdoctoral fellowship, it is open for non US Citizen. There are 24 fellows a year and the research is conducted at a “host” institution. There is a large research budget.

Host can also be a NASA Center.

Deadline is usually at the end of October.

NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellowship (NPP): <https://npp.orau.org/>

The NPP is a most long-running fellowship that allows researchers to come work with scientists at NASA Centers. It is a 2 year fellowships, with a third depending on funds. The key to apply is a connection with a NASA Center team and researchers. It is open to non-US Citizens.

It comes with a travel budget.

There are 3 deadlines a year (it may change in the future).

More Resources

Floor Broekgaarden's page:

<https://www.broekgaarden.nl/floor/wordpress/eca-resources-applying-for-phd-postdoc-faculty-and-more/>

For postdocs:

- **NSF AAFP:** <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/aapf-nsf-astronomy-astrophysics-postdoctoral-fellowships>
- **AAS Job Register:** <https://aas.org/jobregister>

For Undergraduate/Graduate Students:

- **NASA Internships (summer deadline is in February):** <https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/internship-programs/>
- **DOD:** <https://www.dodstem.us/participate/opportunities/?type=Internship%20or%20Apprenticeship>
- **For Community College students (NCAS) :** <https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/nasa-community-college-aerospace-scholars/>