

1. Q: I am [an U.S. citizen/a non-U.S. citizen/a Permanent Resident/here on a Green Card/etc.]; do I need to be able to obtain a security clearance to be eligible for YFA? Am I eligible to obtain a security clearance?

A: The RA states that "The ability to obtain a U.S. security clearance is required. Please refer to the Defense Security Service website for guidance on eligibility requirements to obtain a U.S. security clearance (https://www.dss.mil/GW>ShowBinary/DSS/psco/ps_faqs.html)."
Please see the provided link for more information on eligibility - Question number five (5) addresses security clearances for non-U.S. citizens.

Note: The DSS website states that under rare circumstances, a non-U.S. citizen may be issued a Limited Access Authorization (LAA) for access to classified information. DARPA is not prepared to make the case that participation in the YFA program is a “rare circumstance” that would warrant a LAA security clearance.

2. Q: If I am not with a university but collaborate with a university; am I eligible?

A: The RA states that "This RA solicits single investigator proposals for research and development in the broad areas of the Physical Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics..." and that "Participation is limited to untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 6 years of appointment to a tenure-track position at a U.S. institution of higher learning." The research announcement is not open to any other organizations or entities in any capacity.

3. Q: What are the eligibility requirements with regards to tenure?

A: Section III-A of the RA states that "Participation is limited to untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 6 years of appointment to a tenure-track position at a U.S. institution of higher learning." Please refer to this section for further eligibility requirements. A proposer must meet the eligibility requirements provided in the RA, Section III-A at the time that he or she submits a proposal.

4. Q: In what topic is my research most applicable?

A: You should choose the most appropriate topic area for your proposed research. Additionally, as stated in the RA, "DARPA reserves the right to assign proposals to a different topic area than what was proposed."

5. Q: Is my proposed research of interest to DARPA?

A: It is DARPA's policy to not comment on fundability/interest, only on the extent that potential research is or is not within the scope of the RA. All proposals received will be considered and judged according to the criteria outlined in Section V-A. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION - Evaluation Criteria, of the Young Faculty Award RA. DARPA cannot comment on its potential interest in a proposal until the proposal has been reviewed and determined to be selectable or unselectable in accordance with the evaluation criteria. After this determination has been made a written notice of the decision will be sent to proposers.

6. Q: Is there a limit on the number of applicants who may apply from a single institution?

A: No.

7. Q: Can my budget include money to support graduate students and post doctoral students helping me do the proposed research?

A: Your budget may include funds for graduate students and post doctoral students. However, your total budget, including these funds, should fall within the budget parameters set by the RA (maximum \$150K per year for two years).

8. Q: Can I fund activities at another organization in support of my YFA research project?

A: YFA awards will be single investigator grants, and as such, you cannot have a subcontractor on your YFA proposal. You can pay for services such as materials processing or integrated circuit fabrication at another organization; however, funds for these services must be included in the proposal budget which cannot exceed \$150k/year over two years.

9. Q: I would like to request a meeting with a specific YFA topic POC.

A: Unfortunately, due to the high volume of responses to this RA, YFA topic POCs are unable to accommodate such meetings. However, if you have a specific question you may send it to RA09-14@darpa.mil.