National Research Service Awards (NRSAs)

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OFFICE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH EDUCATION & TRAINING
Resources

- Guide to Writing NRSAs
- “Quick Start” guide
- Links to forms
- Lots of tips & advice!
- “Boiler plate” text about institutional resources
- Navigating Vanderbilt’s grants process: Dec 16
- VICTR studios
  (https://starbrite.vanderbilt.edu)
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

- Awarded to institutions and individuals by the NIH to fund the training of predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows

- To ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in adequate numbers ... to address the Nation’s biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs
Goal: to facilitate the training of new scientists

- A great research plan is necessary, but not sufficient
- NIH wants to see other activities that contribute to your development as a scientist:
  - Meet regularly with advisor
  - Professional development workshops
  - Journal clubs
  - Seminar series
  - Scientific meetings
  - Collaborations
  - Didactic courses
  - Lab meetings
  - Works-in-progress
  - Departmental retreats

- Highlight these activities in “sponsor’s training plan” and “goals for training and career”
Two types of NRSAs

- Institutional Training Grants ("T" Awards)
- Individual Fellowships ("F" Awards)
  - F32 for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows
  - F31 for Individual Predoctoral Fellows to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research
  - F31 for Individual Predoctoral Fellows
  - F30 for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows
Eligibility

- US citizen, non-citizen national or permanent resident

- Limited duration of aggregate support = T + F
  
  Predoc (F30/531): 5-6 years
  Postdoc (F32) 3 years (= don’t be on a T too long!)

- Diversity F31s: (A) underrepresented racial or ethnic group; (B) individual with disabilities; (C) individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research (PA-11-112)
Not every IC funds all types of NRSAs!

Read the program announcement for a list of funding ICs
“F kiosk” lists fellowship PAs

http://grants.nih.gov/training/F_files_nrsa.htm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
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</table>
| **F30**   | NIH: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD and Other Dual Doctoral Degree Fellows (Parent F30) (PA-11-110)  
NHLBI: NHLBI Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows (F30) (PA-11-125) |
| **F31**   | NIH: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 - Diversity) (PA-11-112)  
NIH: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (Parent F31) (PA-11-111)  
NINR: NINR Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in Nursing Research (F31) (PAR-11-117)  
NINDS: NINDS Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in MD-PhD programs (F31) (PAR-11-127)  
NIGMS: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in PharmD/PhD Programs (F31) (PA-11-129) |
| **F32**   | NIH: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (Parent F32) (PA-11-113)  
NIAMS: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships in Muscular Dystrophy Research (F32) (PA-11-075) |
Find IC that funds the mechanism you need!

- **F32 Postdoctoral**
- **F31 Diversity Predoctoral**

- **F30 MD/PhD Predoctoral:** NIA, NIAAA, NIDCD, NIDA, NIMH, NIDDK, NIEHS, NCI, NHLBI, NINDS (F31)

- **F31 Predoctoral:** NIA, NIAAA, NIDCD, NIDA, NIMH, NIDCR, NCCAM, NCI, NINR

Funded by nearly all ICs
ICs fund NRSAs at different levels


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Stage</th>
<th>NIGMS</th>
<th>NIAID</th>
<th>NHLBI</th>
<th>NIMH</th>
<th>NINDS</th>
<th>NCI</th>
<th>NICHD</th>
<th>NIA</th>
<th>NIEHS</th>
<th>NIDDK</th>
<th>NIDA</th>
<th>NIDCD</th>
<th>NIBIB</th>
<th>NIDCR</th>
<th>NIAAA</th>
<th>NNIR</th>
<th>NEI</th>
<th>NHGRI</th>
<th>NIAMS</th>
<th>NCCAM</th>
<th>NCRR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Doctoral</td>
<td>3,839</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>311</td>
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<td>144</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Doctoral</td>
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<td>951</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>360</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NHLBI funded 1284 postdoctoral fellowships

NCCAM funded 28 postdoctoral fellowships
Summary: find an IC that funds...

the mechanism you need (i.e. F30, F31, or F32) +
the kind of research you propose to do
The “special note” has IC-specific guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Organization(s)</th>
<th>National Institutes of Health (NIH)</th>
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</table>
| Components of Participating Organizations | National Cancer Institute (NCI)  
National Institute on Aging (NIA)  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)  
National Institute on Aging (NIA)  
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) |
<p>| Funding Opportunity Title | Ruth L. Kirshstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD, PhD and Other Dual Doctoral Degree Fellows (Parent F30) |
| Activity Code | F30 Individual Predoctoral NRSA for M.D./Ph.D. fellowships |
| Announcement Type | Ressue of PA-10-107 |
| Related Notices | None |
| Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number | PA-11-110 |
| Companion FOA | None |
| Number of Applications | See Section III.3, Additional Information on Eligibility |
| Catalog of Federal Domestics Assistance (CFDA) Number(s) | 93.273, 93.173, 93.279, 93.113, 93.282, 93.853, 93.809, 93.847, 93.121 |
| FOA Purpose | The purpose of the Ruth L. Kirshstein National Research Service Awards (Kirshstein-NRSA) is to provide support to individuals for combined M.D./Ph.D. and other dual doctoral degree training in e.g., COPIC, DDS/PhD, AD/PhD. The participating institutions award this Kirshstein-NRSA individual fellowship (F30) to qualified applicants with the potential to become productive, independent, highly trained physician-scientists and other clinician-scientists, including patient-oriented researchers, in their scientific mission areas. This funding opportunity supports individual predoctoral F30 fellowships with the expectation that these training opportunities will increase the number of future investigators with both clinical knowledge and skills in basic, translational or clinical research. |
| Key Dates | |
| Posted Date | February 10, 2011 |
| Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) | March 13, 2011 |
| Letter of Intent Due Date | Not Applicable |
| Application Due Date(s) | Standard dates apply |
| AIDS Application Due Date(s) | Standard dates apply |
| Scientific Merit Review | Standard dates apply |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>IC-Specific Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Cancer Institute</strong></td>
<td>The NCI provides support for training leading to the Ph. D., M.D./ Ph.D., or other combined professional and doctoral degree in basic or population-based cancer research or cancer prevention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Aguilah@mail.nih.gov">Aguilah@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Eye Institute</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:agarwalnee@mail.nih.gov">agarwalnee@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Heart, Lung, &amp; Blood Institute</strong></td>
<td>NHLBI requires a Data and Safety Monitoring Plan for human subjects research with more than minimal risk. The NHLBI supports training individuals to be productive researchers in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases of the heart, blood vessels, lungs, and blood; and in the uses of blood and blood resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rothgebra@mail.nih.gov">rothgebra@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Human Genome Research Institute</strong></td>
<td>The NHGRI is especially interested in supporting individuals from diverse backgrounds. The Institute’s “A Vision for the Future of Genomics Research” can be found online. NHGRI staff encourage prospective applicants to contact them to discuss potential research training projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:bettie_graham@mail.nih.gov">bettie_graham@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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Examples: Institute-Specific Guidelines

- “[for F31 from NINDS] Support will be provided for a maximum of 3 years”

- “Ph.D. postdoctoral fellows with more than three years of research postdoctoral experience may wish to consider applying for the NIDDK K01 Award”

- “[for F32] NIGMS policy is to provide support for 3 years minus any time that the fellow has already spent in the sponsor's laboratory at the time of the award”
Call the Program Officer (P.O.)

- Program Officer (a.k.a. Program Director or Project Officer) = ‘consultant’ for scientists seeking funding
- Be ready to describe (1) project goals & specific aims (2) how your project relates to IC funding interests

Confirm that IC is interested in funding your type of project!
Don’t skip the call to the P.O.

- F31 funded by NIMH
- F32 funded by NINDS
- K99/R00 funded by NIGMS

### Standard receipt dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Cycle I</th>
<th>Cycle II</th>
<th>Cycle III</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F30 and F31 MD/PhD F31 General F32 Postdoctoral</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>December 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F31 Diversity Predoc</td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>December 13</td>
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Review process takes 5-6 months, funding decision can take longer

Applications can be revised and re-submitted **once**
Initial preparation to apply

- Read the Program Announcement and Application Guide
- Tell your departmental grants administrator you plan to apply, at least 6-8 weeks in advance.
Application Components

Applicant Information

Five “Parts” Common to Most Fellowship Applications

Research Plan

Sponsor Information

Letters of Recommendation

“Compliance” Documents
Application Components

- Biosketch
- Goals for Fellowship Training & Career
  - Grades/GREs
  - Past Research Experience
  - Selection of Sponsor and Institution
  - Activities Planned Under This Award
Application Components

- Specific Aims
- Background & Significance
- Preliminary Data
- Proposed Studies
- Bibliography
Application Components

• 3 letters
• NOT including sponsor
• choose people who can comment on your scientific ability and potential for a research career
• may ask them to address your “weaknesses” directly
Application Components

- Biosketch
- Research support available
- Previous trainees
- Number of trainees to be supervised during fellowship
- Applicant’s qualifications and potential for a research career
- Training plan
Application Components

What you need depends on nature of research:
- Human subjects
- Vertebrate animals
- Biohazards
- Human embryonic stem cells

All NRSAs need: Responsible Conduct of Research

“Compliance” Documents