NIH Dissertation, Pre- and Post-Doctoral Grants

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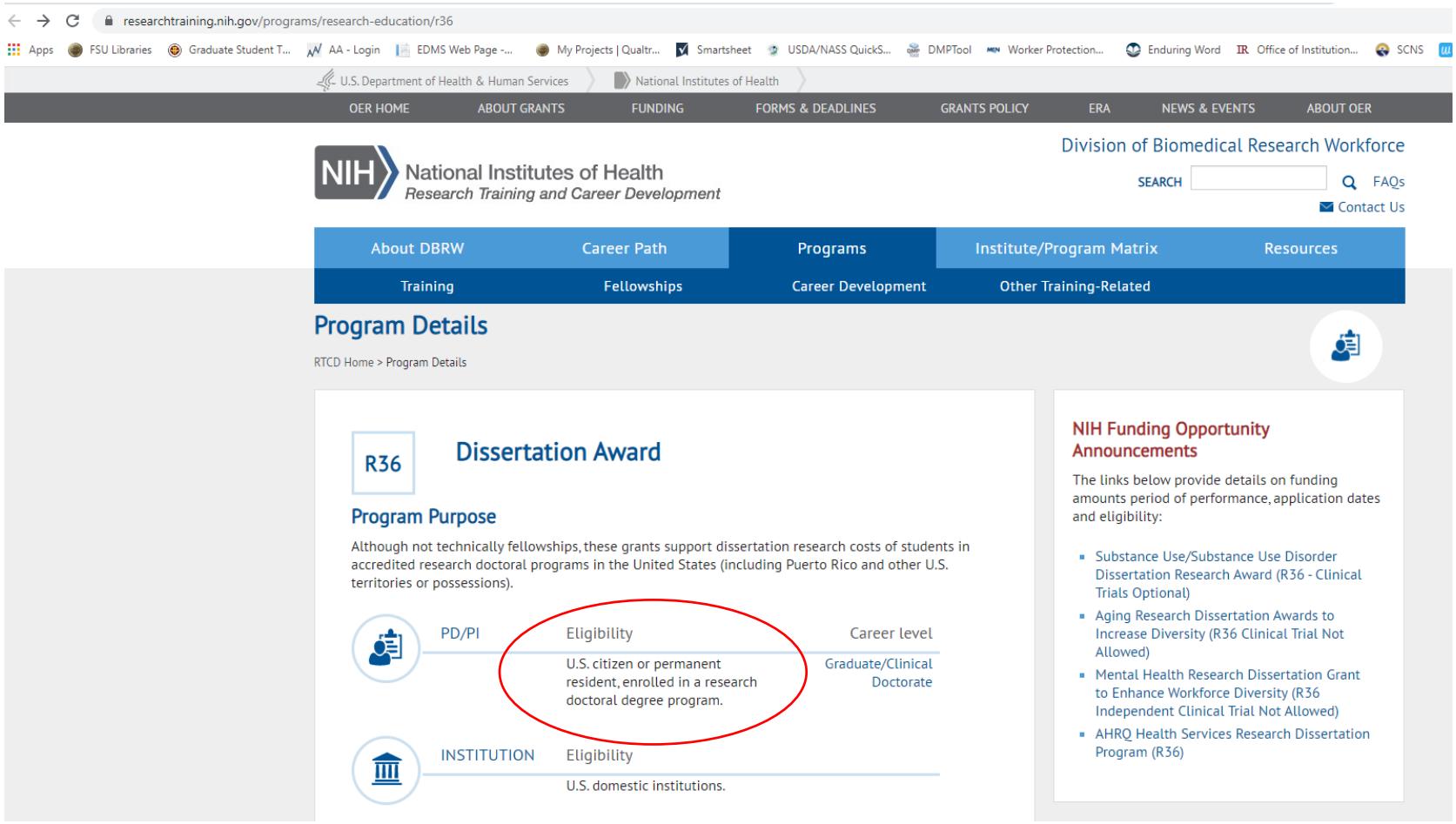
Presentation Goal & Aims

- Goal: Promote early entrée of emerging scientists into NIH grant-writing
- Aims
  - Introduce and overview currently active Dissertation Grant mechanisms (R36)
  - Overview the F31 and F32 Mechanisms for pre- and post-doctoral training
  - Share strategies and tactics of effective grant writing that enable strong scores and potentially funding.

NIH Dissertation Grant (R36)



Purpose of the R36

Substance Use/Substance Use Disorder Dissertation Research Award (R36 - Clinical Trials Optional)

The goal of this FOA is to support doctoral candidates from a variety of academic disciplines for up to two years for the completion of the doctoral dissertation research project. Research projects should align with NIDA funding priorities detailed here (https://www.drugabuse.gov/funding/funding-priorities) or within the NIDA Strategic Plan (https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/2016-2020-nida-strategic-plan). This award will facilitate the entry of promising new investigators into the field of substance use/substance use disorder (SU(D) research, enhancing the pool of highly talented SU(D) researchers. Applications are particularly encouraged from those who can contribute to diversifying the research workforce as described in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity (NOT-OD-20-031).

Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity (R36 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to provide dissertation awards in all areas of research within NIA's strategic priorities to increase the diversity of the scientific research workforce engaged in research on aging and aging-related health conditions.

Mental Health Research Dissertation Grant to Enhance Workforce Diversity (R36 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to enhance the diversity of the mental health research workforce by providing dissertation awards in all research areas within the strategic priorities of the NIMH to individuals from groups underrepresented in biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences research. This award supports the completion of the doctoral research project.

AHRQ Health Services Research Dissertation Program (R36)

This announcement represents the continuation of an AHRQ program that provides support to individuals who are conducting research undertaken as part of an accredited academic program to qualify for a research doctorate degree.

R36 Financial Information

Substance Use/Substance Use Disorder Dissertation Research Award (R36 - Clinical Trials Optional)

Award Budget	Grants to support dissertation research will provide no more than $50,000 in direct costs per year. Indirect Costs (also known as Facilities & Administrative [F&A] Costs) are reimbursed at 8% of modified total direct costs (exclusive of tuition and fees, consortium costs in excess of $25,000, and expenditures for equipment), rather than on the basis of a negotiated rate agreement.
Award Project Period	Applications may request a minimum of one and a maximum of two years of support.

Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity (R36 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Award Budget	This FOA allows for budget requests to cover, per year, a salary consistent with the current fiscal year National Research Service Award (NRSA) predoctoral stipend level (https://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm#policy) and up to $20,000 for additional expenses such as fringe benefits (including health insurance for self and family members), travel to scientific meetings, and dissertation research costs in accordance with institutional policies. With the exception of costs associated with the dissertation (i.e., dissertation credits), no funds may be used to pay tuition or fees.
Award Project Period	Support is provided for up to two years.

Mental Health Research Dissertation Grant to Enhance Workforce Diversity (R36 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Award Budget	This FOA allows for budget requests to cover, per year, a salary consistent with the current fiscal year National Research Service Award (NRSA) predoctoral stipend level (https://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm#policy) and up to $15,000 for additional expenses such as fringe benefits (including health insurance for self and family members), travel to scientific meetings, and dissertation research costs in accordance with institutional policies. With the exception of costs associated with the dissertation (i.e., dissertation credits), no funds may be used to pay tuition or fees. Other specific costs not allowed on dissertation research grants are equipment, alterations/renovations, space rental, contracting or consortium costs, dissertation defense or deposit fees, membership fees, and faculty or consultant effort. This listing is not exhaustive, and the applicant institution should contact NIMH staff regarding any other cost item being considered. For more information on allowable and unallowable costs, see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/policy.htm?.
Award Project Period	The total award project period may not exceed twenty-four months but must be no less than 12 months.

NRSA F31 & F32 Training Grants

F31

Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award

To provide predoctoral individuals with supervised research training in specified health and health-related areas leading toward the research doctoral degree (e.g., PhD).

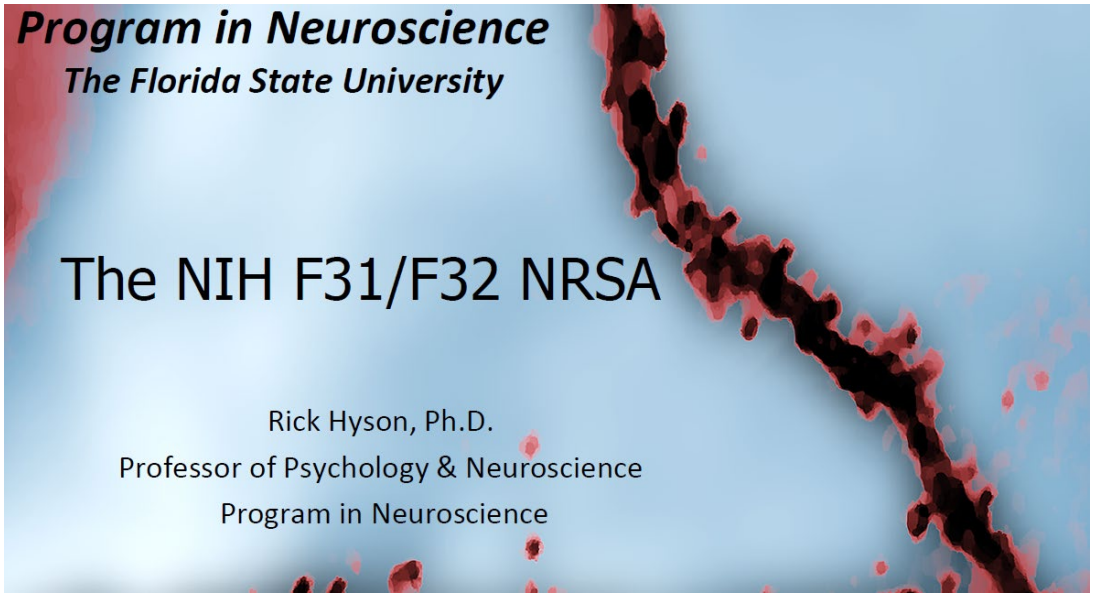
Details | View Current Funding Opportunities

F32

Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award

To provide postdoctoral research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research in specified health-related areas.

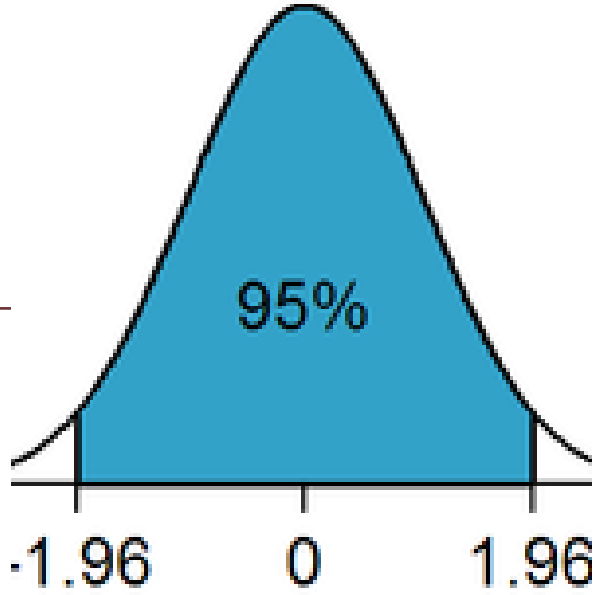
Details | View Current Funding Opportunities



Develop a Writing Strategy

- This is NOT manuscript writing!
- Reviewers are informed, but naïve!
- Remember the psychology of the reviewer
- Write with authority
- Use the rubric

Significance



Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project rigorous? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Investigator

Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or those in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Approach

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators included plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

Impact

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact
Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact
Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact

Summary & Conclusions

- The NIH has ample dissertation and training programs.
- Grant writing is different than journal article writing
- Write your proposal with a specific strategy in mind
  - The reviewer is an accomplished scientist, but is naïve to your subject material
  - The psychology of the reviewer – your reviewer is working the “second shift”
  - Use the Rubric
- Prioritize making your reviewer’s job easy!