

The NIH F31/F32 NRSA Diversity Supplements Career Development



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Navigating the NIH Programs

Activity Code F31, F32 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

- Program Announcement (PA); Program Announcement (PAR)
- Request for Application (RFA)

Program Officer (PO) Provide scientific guidance to investigators pre- and post-award, Many Institutes have Research Training PO.

Scientific Review Officer (SRO) Review application, includes the review assignment, send additional materials, discuss any review concerns.

Eligibility?

- “By the time of award, the individual must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.”

How do I know if it is right for me?

- Read the “Program Announcement”
 - F31 Individual Predoctoral Fellowship
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-21-051.html>
 - F32 Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-21-048.html>
 - NOTE: [FORMS VERSION H SERIES](#); Released: [October 25, 2022](#)
- Contact the Program Officer
 - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/parent_F32.html

Pay Attention to Relevance and Expiration Dates

How do I know which Institute/study section to send it to?

- <http://reporter.nih.gov/>
- Contact the Program Officer
- Many Institutes have a Program Officer dedicated to training and fellowships.

What type of science/training?

- Concept of the grant “mechanism”
- **F31**: “The purpose ... is to enable promising predoctoral students to obtain individualized, mentored research training from outstanding faculty sponsors while conducting dissertation research in scientific health-related fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. The proposed mentored research training must reflect the applicant's dissertation research project and is expected to clearly enhance the individual's potential to develop into a productive, independent research scientist.”
- **F32**: “The purpose ... is to support research training of highly promising postdoctoral candidates who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in scientific health-related research fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. Applications are expected to incorporate exceptional mentorship.”

When can I apply?

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)
- Standard dates for NIH
- F awards: April 8, Aug 8, Dec 8
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/dues-dates-and-submission-policies/dues-dates.htm>

What does it provide?

- Stipend; some “training related expenses”
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-076.html>
 - Not really to fund the science itself (animals, chemicals etc.). Sponsor must have adequate support.
 - New: [childcare allowance](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-074.html)
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-074.html>
- Max 3 years

NRSA Parts of the application

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-h/fellowship-forms-h.pdf> (particularly RESEARCH & RELATED Other Project Information and the Fellowship Supplement Form)

- Various standard info in forms
- Biosketch (in specified format)
- Background and Goals For Training (6 page limit)
- Research Strategy
- Sponsor Selection
- Letters of Recommendations (3)

Section of Application	Page Limits * (if different from FOA, FOA supersedes)
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	Three sentences
Introduction to Resubmission or Revision Application (when applicable)	1
Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training	6
Specific Aims	1
Research Strategy	6
Respective Contributions	1
Selection of Sponsor and Institution	1
Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research	1
Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements	6
Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants	6
Description of Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training	2
Note: This page limit includes the Additional Educational Information required for F30 and F31 applications.	
Applications for Concurrent Support (when applicable)	1
Biographical Sketch	5

Review Criteria

F31/32

- Candidate
- Sponsor and collaborators
- Research training plan
- Training potential
- Training environment

Feasibility and Promise

The science and related info:

- Parts for Research Plan
 - Aims (1 page)
 - Strategy (6 pages)
- Also:
 - Project Summary
 - Project Narrative
 - Human/Animal Subjects
 - Facilities and Resources
 - Select Agents, Resource Sharing Plan
 - Respective Contributions
 - Selection of Sponsor and Institution
 - Responsible Conduct in Research

Bottom Line: Plan on taking LOTS of time

Sponsor(s) and Co-Sponsor(s)

- A lot of info is required here; give them plenty of time
 - Biosketch (form pages but make it about training)
 - Sponsor/co-sponsor Statement (6 page limit):
 - Research support available
 - Training history; may need co- if junior faculty
 - Training plan, environment, facilities
 - Make sure it is not “generic”; prove individual attention and good person-student relationship
 - Make sure it lines up with your stated goals
 - Number of current trainees
 - Qualifications and Potential of Trainee: Goals should parallel Trainee's Goals.

Recommendation Letters

- Who to ask:
 - People you **know** will write strong letters
 - People who you say will collaborate
 - People for whom it would be weird if you didn't ask them for a letter (e.g, for post doc, should probably have Ph.D. advisor)
- *Your sponsor(s) cannot be a letter writer

NIH Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-21-071.html>
- Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) holding specific types of research grants.
- Administrative supplements to enhance the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting students, postdoctorates from diverse backgrounds including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research.
- NIH Institute Specific—through Program Official

Eligibility?

- A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the NSF to be underrepresented in health-related sciences.
- B. Individuals with disabilities.
- C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet *two or more* of the following criteria:
 1. Homelessness.
 2. Foster care system.
 3. Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program.
 4. Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree.
 5. Federal Pell grant eligible.
 6. Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as parent or child.
 7. Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas

Career Development

- K Awards - <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/>

K99/R00 – [Pathway to Independence](#) - To support both an initial mentored research experience (K99) followed by independent research (R00) for highly qualified, postdoctoral researchers to secure an independent research position (Tenure Track). PA-20-127

K99/R00 – [MOSAIC](#) –Postdoctoral Career Transition Award (above) + to Promote Diversity (K99/R00) program is to support a cohort of early career, independent investigators from diverse backgrounds conducting research in NIH mission areas.

[PA 21-277](#)

Same Eligibility requirements must be met.

NIH Blueprint D-SPAN Award (F99/K00)

- Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience (D-SPAN)
- [RFA-NS-21-012](#)
- April 14, 2023; December 15, 2023.
- Completion of the doctoral dissertation and transition to strong neuroscience research postdoctoral positions.
- Career development opportunities
- Independent neuroscience researchers.
- Up to 6 years of career support
- 1-2 years in the F99 fellowship/up to 4 years in the K00 career development phase.

HHMI Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program

- Recruit and retain individuals from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences, including those individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship (2-4 years) Annual \$70,000 + \$20,000 expenses
- Faculty Support (4 years) \$250,000 per year.
- One submission date per year: December 7, 2022.
- PhD and/or MD (or equivalent), conferred by the start of the grant term. U.S. citizens must have a degree from a research institution in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) or an international research institution.
- Non-U.S. citizens and applicants with other nationalities must have a degree from a research institution in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico).
- No more than 18 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application due date.