Research Fellowships: Why, What, and How?

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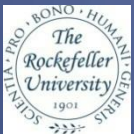
http://www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/?page=Training_Area

CRC 406

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Why Apply for Funding

- Prepare for a career as an independent investigator
- Be an active member of the larger research community and participate in the discovery process
- Secure resources for training & research expenses
- Write up your findings (for future publications)

Pre-Doctoral Sponsored Funding

- Fellowships
- Training Grants
- Dissertation Grants

Where to Apply

- Federal
  - [NIH](#)
  - [NSF](#)
  - [Department of Defense](#)
  - Other federal sponsors as relevant funding programs are made available
- Foundations
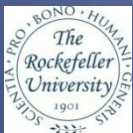- Internal (via Deans Office and Development)

Resources for Finding Funding Opportunities

- SR-PD
  - Predoctoral Fellowship Funding Sources
  - Funding Opportunities Database
  - SR-PD weekly Funding alerts
  - Pivot database
  - Other Grant Seeking Resources maintained by Program Development
  - Mentor and peers

Opportunities for non-US Citizens

- While some sponsors have citizenship requirements, many opportunities exist for international students
  - Opportunities Restricted to US Citizens/Permanent Residents
  - Opportunities Restricted to Other Citizenship/Nationalities
  - Unrestricted Opportunities
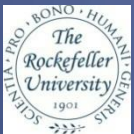- Review [Predoctoral Fellowship Funding Sources](#)

NSF GRFP Application

- Submitted directly by applicant via NSF FastLane
- Review GRFP announcement [NSF 16-588](NSF 16-588)
- Application Components:
  - Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
  - Graduate Research Plan Statement (2 pages)
  - Transcripts, uploaded into FastLane
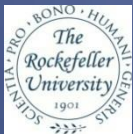 - Three letters of reference required

NSF's Merit Review Criteria

- Intellectual Merit
  - Demonstrated potential to advance knowledge
    - Strength of Academic Record
    - Research Plan
    - Previous Experience and/or publications
    - Institution

- Broader Impacts
  - Potential of applicant to benefit society
    - Educational Experiences
    - Integration of research & education
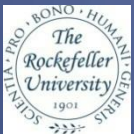   - Potential to reach diverse audiences and benefit society

Changes to NSF GRFP

- Application Deadlines
  - Life Sciences applications are due 10/24/16
- Reference letter deadline
  - November 3, 2016
- Grad students are limited to only <u>1</u> submission, either in the first or second year of grad school.
  - Must have completed no more than 12 months full time grad school by August 1

NDSEG Fellowship

- [National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate](#) Fellowship
- Eligibility
  - US citizenship requirement
  - Field of study must fit into one of the supported disciplines – Biosciences
  - At or near the beginning of doctoral studies (less than 2 years graduate study)
- Fellowship is for 3 years and covers tuition, fees, and stipend of $102,000 over 3 years ($34,000/year)
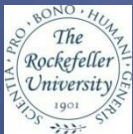- Applications due 12/09/16

NDSEG Fellowship - Application

- GREs and Transcripts
- Summary of Goals
  - 3,000 character limit
  - Ideas about the kind of research in which you would like to be engaged
  - Specific research questions that interest you
  - How your research might be of interest to the DoD
  - Your long-term goals and how science fits into your life
  - NOT a typical grant application
- 3 Letters of Reference

NIH Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

- F31 Predoctoral
  supports promising doctoral candidates who will be performing dissertation research and training in scientific health-related fields
- F32 Postdoctoral
  supports promising applicants with potential to become productive and successful independent research investigators in scientific health-related fields
- T32 Institutional Training Grant
  supports institutions with established programs of supervised research career development in the fields of biomedical and behavioral research

American Heart Association

- No citizenship requirements (must have approved Visa)
- Objective: to initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research
- Last [deadline](): July 28, 2016
- You should be done with coursework and devoting 100% effort to research at time of award activation (Jan 1)
- $22,950 stipend plus $1,000 for health insurance and $2,000 for project costs (supplies, travel, etc.) for two yrs
- Review Criteria: Trainee potential; Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment; Evaluation of Research Proposal

Tips for All Fellowships

- Follow guidelines to the letter!
  - Some sponsors are especially interested in more novel/innovative projects
  - Many are focused on applicant's potential and track record (transcript, publications, etc.)
  - Many also ask for mentor's track record and institutional environment
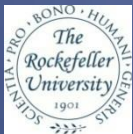 - Always keep the review criteria in mind!

Additional Elements

- Provide easy to read, carefully proofed, logical, succinct and coherent narrative.
- Meet format requirements:
    - Font type and size
    - Margins
    - Other as needed
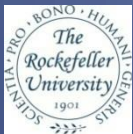- Never exceed the sponsor's page limit

Steps To Beginning Your Proposal

- Start early!
- Review the funding program you deem relevant
- When available, review recently [funded proposals](#)
- Find out [success rate](#) at target agency/institute
- Discuss your research/proposal with your mentor
- Contact the Program Official/Director
- Secure reference letters
- Register with sponsor
- Work with your [Sponsored Programs Officer](#)

Summary of Key Resources

- Mentor
- Peers
- RU Office of Sponsored Programs Administration
  - Forms and format
  - Budget (e.g personnel effort & costs, indirect costs)
  - Boilerplates
  - Your Sponsored Programs Officer
  - Website
  - NIH Fellowship Checklist
- Sponsor's website
- NIH
  - RePORT
  - Program Official
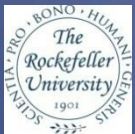 - Office of Extramural Research

Preparing the Proposal

- Review scope of the funding opportunity announcement
- Make note of the deadline
- Verify eligibility with your [Sponsored Programs Officer](#)
- Get your Mentor's consent
- Read closely the guidelines/instructions – including special submission requirements
- Design your outline and research plan according to the sponsor's instructions
- Discuss training and research plan with your mentor
- Fully address the review criteria in the order presented by the sponsor

Questions and Suggestions