Research Fellowships: Why, What, and How?

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Sponsored Research and Program Development

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

RRB 110

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Why Apply for Funding

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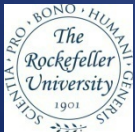- Write up your findings (for future publications)

University Support for Grant-seeking

The process of seeking and applying external resources to support research is a complex and integrated effort supported by the University infrastructure and coordinated by several departments and offices:
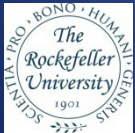
- Sponsored Research & Program Development (program development, pre-award, post-award and training)

- Finance (post-award)

- Compliance areas

- Infrastructure - Resource Centers

Types of Pre-Doctoral Funding

- Fellowships
- Training Grants
- Dissertation Grants

Where to Apply

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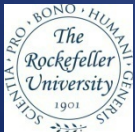- Foundations
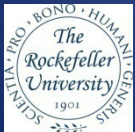- Internal (via Deans Office and Development)

Resources for Finding Funding Opportunities

- SR-PD
  - [Predoc Fellowship Funding Sources](#)
  - [Funding Opps Database](#)
  - SR-PD weekly Funding alerts
  - Other [Online Resources](#) maintained by Program Development
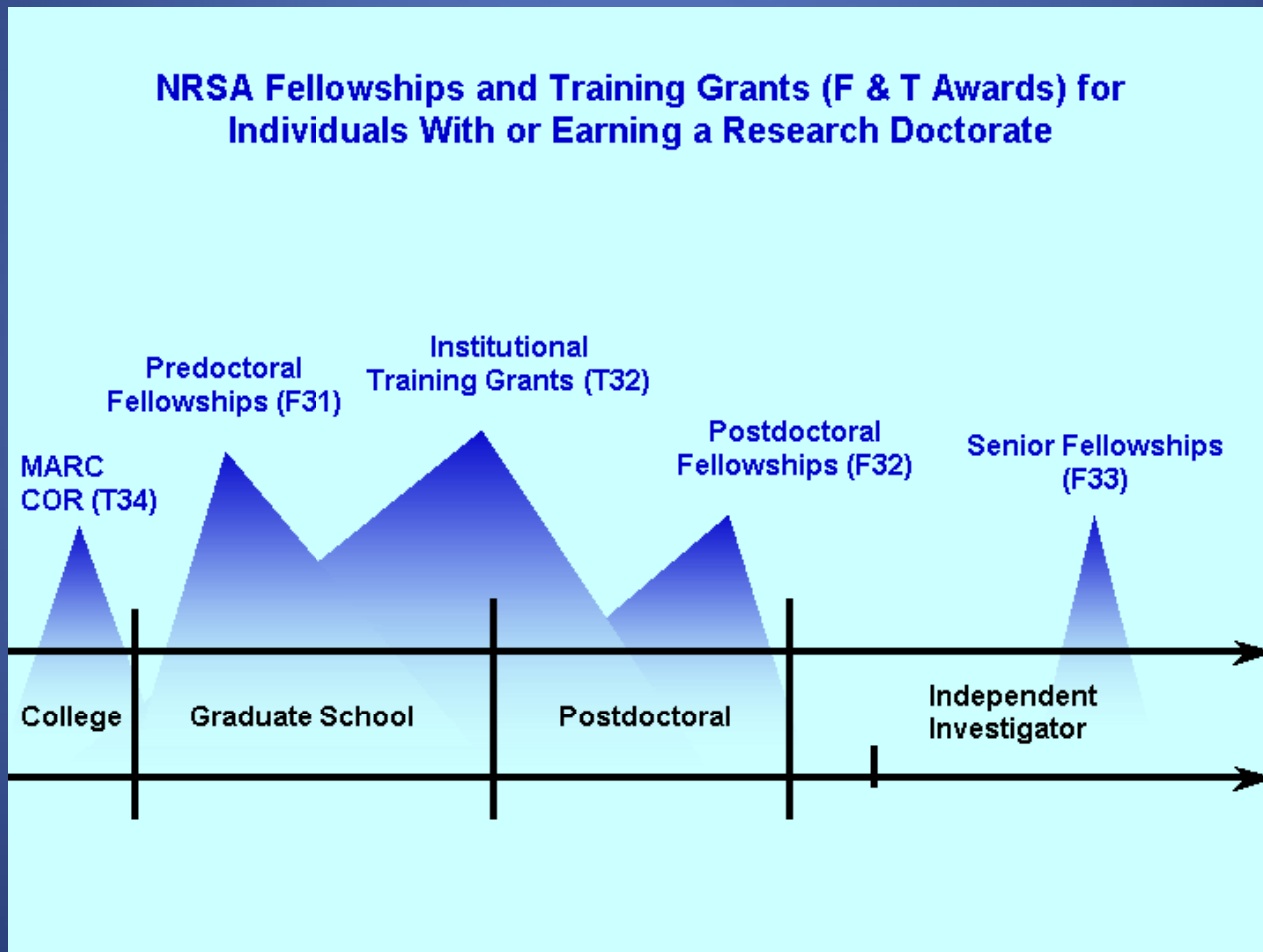- Mentor and peers

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

NIH Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

NRSA Fellowships and Training Grants (F & T Awards) for Individuals With or Earning a Research Doctorate

NIH Fellowships Awards Summarized
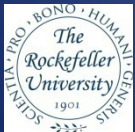
	F30	F31	F32
Citizenship Eligibility	USA or Permanent Resident	USA or Permanent Resident	USA or Permanent Resident
Length of Project Period	Up to 5 years mentored	Up to 5 years mentored	Up to 3 years mentored
Estimated Range of Annual Direct Costs	$25,380 plus partial tuition & fees	$25, 380 plus partial tuition & fees	$45,590 - $59,918 (varies with years of postdoctoral experience)
Type of Training	MD/PhD students	PhD students (or equivalent)	Post-doctoral
Minimum effort committed to research training program	100%	100%	100%
Letters required	Mentor plus 3 referees	Mentor plus 3 referees	Mentor plus 3 referees
Participating NIH Institutes (check PA for listing as not all ICs participate)	PA-10-107	PA-10-108	PA-10-110

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Tips for NIH Training Fellowships

- Require 100% commitment towards research training
- Recognized/experienced mentor(s) is advised
- Training plan must be clear, focused, as well as exciting and practical
- Biosketches should reflect the potential of the candidate and the qualifications of the mentor
- Highlight coursework and professional work directly related to your research topic
- Review relevant Guidelines for Reviewers

Timeframe of Grant-Seeking Process

The grant-seeking process is long and could take 12 months or even longer from initial planning, identifying relevant opportunities, writing applications, submitting, going through the review process, to award making and start date!
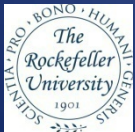
Grants Process at a Glance

Standard Due Dates for Competing Applications
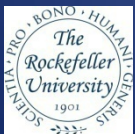
Steps To Beginning Your Proposal

- Start early, approx. 6-9 months before deadline
- 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 Grants Management Specialist

Summary of Key Resources

- Mentor
- Peers
- RU SR-PD
  - Forms and format
  - Budget (e.g personnel effort & costs, indirect costs)
  - Boilerplates
  - Your Grants Management Specialist
  - Website
  - NIH Fellowship Checklist
- Sponsor's website
- NIH
  - RePORT
  - Program Official
  - Office of Extramural Research
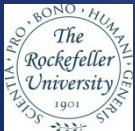
Preparing the Proposal

- Review scope of the funding opportunity announcement
- Make note of the deadline
- Verify eligibility with your Grants Management Specialist
- 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
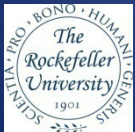- Fully address the review criteria in the order presented by the sponsor

NIH Peer Review: Scored Criteria

1. Fellowship Applicant
2. Sponsors, Collaborators, Consultants
3. Research Training Plan
4. Training Potential
5. Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training

NIH Review: Compliance Areas

1. Protections for human subjects
2. Inclusion of women, minorities, and children
3. Vertebrate animals
4. Biohazards
5. Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research
6. Resource Sharing Plans
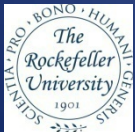
Compliance:
Human Subjects

- Research protocol must be submitted and reviewed by the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) before research can start
- Individuals involved with human subjects must have Protection of Human Subjects Certification
- Applications must be reviewed by the IRB before an existing approved protocol can be applied in the proposal
- Address sponsor's requirements

Check Hospital Internal Home Page for more information
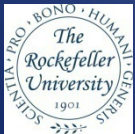
Compliance: Vertebrate Animals

- Research protocol must be submitted and reviewed by the University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before research can start
- Applications must be reviewed by the IACUC before an existing approved protocol can be applied in the proposal
- Individuals involved with animal subjects must have proper training
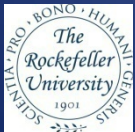- Address sponsor's requirements

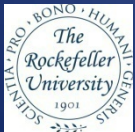Check IACUC Home Page for more information
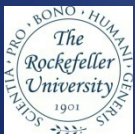
Compliance Resources

- Additional Compliance areas include
  - Conflict of Interest
  - Public Access Policy
  - Export Control
  - Recombinant DNA
- Visit SR-PD's [Compliance Support](#)
  - A comprehensive list of Compliance Areas and links to the corresponding RU department
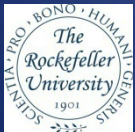
Additional Elements

- Easy to Read
- Format
  - Font type and size
  - Margins
- Page limit

Submission Process

- Complete University [Routing Form](#)
- For full review and institutional sign-off, submit complete packet to SR-PD at least 5 business days before sponsor's deadline
- If paper submission: after institutional sign-off, send the required # of copies and forward a final copy to SR-PD
- If electronic submission: final copy will be submitted by Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)
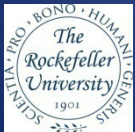- Visit SR-PD's [Application Review Requirements](#) for more information

Electronic Submission

- Most competing grant applications to NIH require electronic submission
  - All NIH fellowships must be submitted electronically
- At RU, NIH grants are submitted via [InfoEd](#)
  - Contact your GMS well before submission to find out about InfoEd training
  - [InfoEd FAQs](#)

Post-submission

- Receive confirmation of receipt and assignment
- Note sponsor's decision date
- Receive summary statement
- If fundable score: submit "Just-in-Time" information and address any pending issues on your application; resolve any overlap of science and effort
- If low score or unscored: evaluate the reviewers' comments; speak with your Program Official; prepare resubmission and work with your GMS
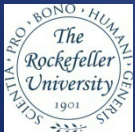
Post-Award Management

Work with SR-PD and Finance on post-award management of your grant:

- Review the award documents
- Note scientific reporting requirements and other terms and conditions
- Follow funding restrictions/requirements
- Work with [SR-PD](#) and [Finance](#) if you need to revise your budget and if approval is required by sponsor
- Brief your mentor and lab administrator and keep them informed of your award and progress
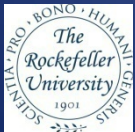
All financial reporting is handled by [University Finance](#) department.
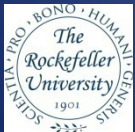
Award Management Contacts
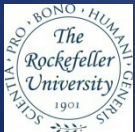
For pre-award and post-award issues, [Contact Us](#)!

Helpful References

- [Sponsored Research and Program Development](#)
- [New Investigators](#)
- [Center for Scientific Review](#)
- [NIH "Writing Your Application"](#)
- [InfoEd](#)
- "Research Proposals: A Guide to Success" 3rd Edition
- "[Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty](#)", 2nd Edition

Questions and Suggestions