Research Fellowships: Why, What, and How?

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http://www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/?page=Training_Area
CRC 406
October 14, 2016
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](http://www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/)
NSF GRFP Application

• Submitted directly by applicant via NSF FastLane
• Review GRFP announcement 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

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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 1 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

[Link: www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/]
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

SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/
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!

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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

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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