

F33 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Senior Fellows
(F33)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the senior fellowship (F33) award is to provide senior fellowship support to experienced scientists who wish to make major changes in the direction of their research careers or who wish to broaden their scientific background by acquiring new research capabilities as independent research investigators in scientific health-related fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers.

Senior fellowship applicants for the F33 award must include a research training proposal that offers an opportunity for individuals to broaden their scientific background or to extend their potential for research in health-related areas as independent researchers. These awards will enable individuals with at least seven years of research experience beyond the doctorate, and who have progressed to the stage of independent investigator, to take time from regular professional responsibilities for the purpose of receiving training to increase their scientific capabilities. In most cases, this award is used to support sabbatical experiences for established independent scientists seeking support for retraining or additional career development. This program is not designed for postdoctoral level investigators seeking to enhance their research experience prior to independence.

Before a Ruth L. Kirschstein-NRSA senior fellowship award can be activated, the individual must have received a PhD, MD, DO, DC, DDS, DVM, OD, DPM, ScD, EngD, DrPH, DNSc, ND (Doctor of Naturopathy), PharmD, DSW, PsyD, or equivalent doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution. Certification by an authorized official of the degree-granting institution that all degree requirements have been met is also acceptable. A Ruth L. Kirschstein-NRSA fellowship may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DO, DDS, DVM, DNP, or other similar health-professional degrees. Neither may these awards be used to support the clinical years of residency training. Research clinicians must devote full-time to their proposed research training and confine clinical duties to those activities that are directly related to the research training program experience.

Senior fellowship support may be requested for a period of up to 2 years.

Visit the parent F33 FOA at [PA-09-211](#).

MORE INFORMATION

To read more about the review criteria and considerations for F33 applications, visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/f.htm>.

Please see the following documents for more information on scoring and critique templates: [Scoring System and Procedure](#), [Critique Template Instructions](#). A comprehensive list of Guidelines for Reviewers is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/reviewer_guidelines.htm.