F31 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (F31)

Purpose of the Award

- Provides support for promising predoctoral candidates who will be performing dissertation research and training in scientific health-related fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes during the tenure of the award.

- Provides up to five years of support for research training which leads to the PhD or equivalent research degree, the combined MD/PhD degree, or another formally combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences.

Applications

- Must propose a dissertation research project and training program that fall in a research area within the scientific mission of the participating NIH Institutes.

- Must propose training that offers an opportunity to enhance the fellow's understanding of the health-related sciences and extend his/her potential for a productive, independent research career.

- Should document the need for the proposed research training and the expected value of the proposed fellowship experience as it relates to the individual’s goals for a career as an independent researcher.

- Proposed training should provide the applicant with:
  - experience conducting research using appropriate, state-of-the-art methods, as well as presenting and publishing the research findings as first author;
the opportunity to interact with members of the scientific community at
appropriate scientific meetings and workshops (including NIH-sponsored
meetings, where available); and
a strong foundation in research design, methods, and analytic techniques
appropriate to the proposed dissertation research.

**Applicants**

- Must have a baccalaureate degree, or equivalent

- Must be currently enrolled in a PhD or equivalent research degree program, a
  formally combined MD/PhD program, or other combined professional/clinical and
  research doctoral in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at an accredited
  domestic or foreign institution

- Must not be pursuing an MD, DDS, or other clinical, health-professional degree
  and/or training (with the exception of a combined degree program as mentioned
  above)

- Typically may receive up to 5 years of aggregate Kirschstein-NRSA support at the
  predoctoral level, including any combination of support from an institutional
  training grant (e.g., T32 or T90) and an individual fellowship award (F31)

**More Information**

- Visit the parent F31 Announcement through the [Parent Announcement page](#).

- Visit the [F Kiosk](#) for information about the Kirschstein-NRSA Individual Fellowships.

- For more about the review criteria and considerations for F applications, visit [Review
  Criteria at- a-Glance](#).

- For more on scoring and critique templates: [Scoring System and Procedure],
  [Critique Template Instructions](#).

- A comprehensive list of Guidelines for Reviewers is available at
  [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/review_templates.htm](#).