

## F31 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

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

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#### 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](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/review_templates.htm).