

# Getting Started Writing Grants

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# Why submit a research proposal?

- Clarifies and deepens your thinking
- Increases productivity and impact
- Critical in all career paths
- Securing funding is an accomplishment and has positive career benefits

# 1. Start Early and Gather Critical Information

- Compile possible funding opportunities
- Gather critical information
  - Instructions
  - Funded & unfunded examples

# Example: NIH Individual Fellowship (NRSA)

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships>

- Read the funding announcement

## Department of Health and Human Services

### Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	<p>National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Eye Institute (NEI) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) National Institute on Aging (NIA) National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)</p>
Funding Opportunity Title	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (Parent F32)
Activity Code	F32 Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award
Announcement Type	Reissue of PA-14-149
Related Notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 14, 2016 - Notice of NEI Participation in PA-16-307. See Notice NOT-HD-16-003.</li><li>• June 14, 2016 - Notice of NICHD Participation in PA-16-307. See Notice NOT-HD-16-012.</li><li>• June 10, 2016 - Form Correction Made for All NIH Fellowship Opportunities. See Notice NOT-OD-16-106.html.</li></ul>
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number	PA-16-307

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- Read the funding announcement
- Identify the review criteria



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- Identify the review criteria
- Understand the review process
  - Watch [NIH Peer Review Revealed](#)



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- Read the funding announcement
- Identify the review criteria
- Understand the review process
- Learn about internal policies and processes

## 2. Create a Game Plan and Write Regularly

- Create a task list
- Write regularly



### 3. Find Your Research Niche

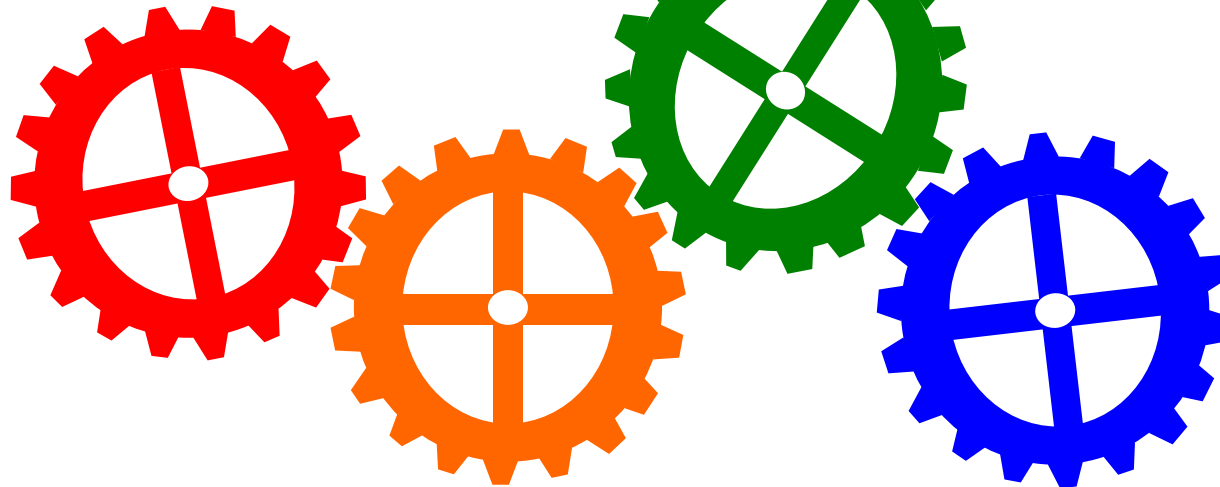
- Deep awareness of your field – identify critical knowledge gaps
- Broad familiarity with the wider scientific community
- Relevant and appropriate for the mission of the Funding Opportunity Announcement

## 4. Use Your Specific Aims Document as Your Roadmap

# Specific Aims - *learn more in next video*

Is the question  
important?

What specifically  
will be done?



What is the  
overall goal?

What is the  
expected payoff?

## 5. Build a First-Rate Team

- Leverage the strengths and expertise of collaborators (Team Science)
- Cross-disciplinary to accelerate scientific innovation and translation

## 6. Develop a complete Research Plan

See video *Communicating Your Research Strategy*

1. Is there a need?
2. How will the specific aims be accomplished?
3. How long will the project take?
4. What is next?

## 7. STOP! Get Feedback!



## 8. Tell a Consistent and Cohesive Story

- Grants have numerous documents or sections
- Must tell a consistent and cohesive story

# Example: NIH Individual Fellowship (NRSA)

Major Components of Application	Page Limits
Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training	6
Specific Aims	1
Research Strategy	6
Respective Contributions	1
Selection of Sponsor and Institution	1
Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research	1
Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements	6
Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, Consultants	6
Description of Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training	2
Biographical Sketch	5

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/page-limits.htm#fell>



## 9. Follow Specific Requirements and Proofread for Errors and Readability

- Strictly follow specific formats and page requirements
- Proofread!

# 10. Recycle and Resubmit

- Recycle: submit to many funding opportunities
- Resubmit: Try again!

# Ten Tips for Writing Proposals:

1. Start Early and Gather Critical Information
2. Create a Game Plan and Write Regularly
3. Find Your Research Niche
4. Use Your Specific Aims Document as Your Roadmap
5. Build a First-Rate Team of Mentors
6. Develop a Complete Career Development Training Plan
7. STOP! Get Feedback!
8. Tell a Consistent and Cohesive Story
9. Follow Specific Requirements and Proofread for Errors and Readability
10. Recycle and Resubmit

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