



# **CONTENT FOR F30/F31 NRSA APPLICATIONS**

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# CHOOSE AN NIH INSTITUTION

**MSP website:** <https://www.med.illinois.edu/MSP/Students/Fellowships/>

- **F30 - PA-11-110** (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-110.html>)

Participating Institutes:

- Aging (NIA), (<http://www.nia.nih.gov/>)
- Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), (<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov>)
- Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), (<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov>)
- Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), (<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>)
- Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), (<http://www.niddk.nih.gov>)
- Drug Abuse (NIDA), (<http://www.nida.nih.gov>)
- Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS/NIH), (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov>)
- Mental Health (NIMH), (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov>)
- National Cancer Institute (<http://www.nci.nih.gov>)

- **Send specific aims page to program officer for feedback**



# CORE REVIEW CRITERIA

- Fellowship Applicant
- Sponsors, Collaborators, Consultants
- Research Training Plan
- Training Potential
- Institutional Environment



# CORE REVIEW CRITERIA

- **Fellowship Applicant**
- Sponsors, Collaborators, Consultants
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# APPLICANT IS EVALUATED BY:

- Academic credentials: grades, productivity
- Demonstrated scientific accomplishment-  
publications, presentations
- Past funding
- Letters of reference (should be excellent):  
previous mentors, sponsors



# APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Standard NIH biosketch format including:

- **Personal statement:** research interests, past accomplishments, why you can do the proposed research
- **Education and employment**
- **Academic and professional honors**
- **Activities and memberships**
- **Publications (peer reviewed papers)**
- Length: 3-4 pages



# DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AND OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Outline previous research experience
  - Not just techniques learned but questions hypothesized and answered
  - Summarize meetings attended, published papers
- Length: Two pages



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# SPONSOR AND CO-SPONSOR CRITERIA

- Research support available: grants and funding sources
- Productivity: publications
- Mentoring record: previous and current fellows and trainees
- If your primary sponsor is not strong in all areas, seek out a co-sponsor. Make sure there is a good research fit.
- Get letters of support for techniques your lab doesn't have expertise in



# SPONSOR BIOSKETCH

Standard NIH biosketch format including:

- **Personal statement:** research interests, past research accomplishments (papers, grants), number of students mentored
- **Professional experience**
- **Honors and awards**
- **Scientific activities**
- **Selected publications (peer reviewed papers)**
- **Research support**
- Length: 3-4 pages



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# RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN I

Specific Aims page:

- **Disease your research addresses and its impact on human health:** prevalence, cost, morbidity
  - **What is NOT known:** ex' s mechanism, biological processes that interact with disease
  - **Your research question/hypothesis**
  - **Brief summary of preliminary data:** how it fits into question and what is known
  - **Aims:** experimental design to test hypothesis
  - **Conclusion:** how results from studies will impact human health (treatment, diagnosis, prevention)
- Length: One page



# RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN II

## ○ **Background and significance**

- What is the major question
- Relevance to human health
- What will be accomplished if aims are achieved
- How will these studies change the field
- How is this approach innovative

## ○ **Preliminary studies**

- Detailed explanation of figures and results: how they fit into research question and lead to hypothesis

## ○ **Research approach: expand on aims**

- Overview, rationale and design of each aim
- Anticipated results, potential pitfalls and alternative approaches

○ Length: Six pages



# RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN TIPS

- Break up sections with headings
  - Use bold, italics, underlining to emphasize points
- Don't fill up all the available space
  - Leave blank lines between sections if you can
- A picture is worth a thousand words



# PROJECT SUMMARY

- Significance of project and relevance with to human health
- Brief description of what is known about the question you are addressing
- How your proposal will address unknown aspects and connect to human health
- This is published on a public NIH database
- Length: 2 paragraphs



# PROJECT NARRATIVE

- Very brief description of question you are addressing
- What results from your proposal will add to knowledge about particular disease or question
- Lay person should be able to understand
  - Length: One or two sentences





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# TRAINING PLAN

- **Seminars and courses:** taken and planned
- **Mentoring:** how often will you meet with your sponsors, what you will glean from these meetings
- **Scientific presentations and publications:** attended and planned
- **Department/program info:** prestige of faculty/department, seminars available, student support activities
- **Medical Scholars Program (F30 applicants):** history and success of the program
- **Specific information about sponsors:** how their background, facilities and equipment will guide your training
- **Applicant qualification and potential for a research career:** each sponsor should write a short “letter of recommendation” – pull together how their training and expertise will guide applicant training
  - Length: Six pages



# GOALS FOR FELLOWSHIP TRAINING AND CAREER

- Define applicant career goals
    - Relate to research proposed
  - How will training plan assist and guide applicant career goals
    - Use specifics: techniques used, unique university or program environment that will foster applicant goals
- Length: One page



# ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER AWARD

- Can use a timeline to outline which aims will be accomplished during which academic years
- F30 applicants: can explain percent of time that will be devoted to research/courses and clinical training throughout the proposal timeline
- Should include meetings, workshops, seminars
  - Anything that will impact and benefit applicant training and exposure (keep career goals in mind)
- Length: One page



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- **Institutional Environment**



# FACILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- List (in outline form) the facilities available to you during your training
    - Ex: **Common lab facilities:** list all *common* equipment including centrifuges, microscopes, data processing equipment
    - **Core facilities:** histology, sequencing, flow cytometry
  - Think outside the box: library resources, machine, electronic shop and computing support
- Length: One page (depends on resources)



# SELECTION OF SPONSOR AND INSTITUTION

- Prestige and reputation of university and applicant's affiliated program
- How selection of university/program fits into applicant research interest and training plan for future career
- Length: One page



# OTHER CONTENT

- **Resource sharing plan**

- Ex. Any regents or animals planned to be shared in studies proposed – a couple of sentences

- **Letters of support from collaborators**

- Offer help with a technique or training, need biosketch

*Note: many of these sections are not part of scoring;  
only accepted or unaccepted*





# STUDY SUBJECTS

- **VETEBRATE ANIMALS SECTION** (if applicable it is mandatory)
  - Species/strains/ages/sex/number used
  - Complete description of proposed procedures
  - Justification: choice of animal, animal number (detailed breeding plan for transgenic mice)
  - Description of vet care
  - Procedures to minimize discomfort
  - Methods of euthanasia etc.
  
- **HUMAN SUBJECTS SECTION**



# RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

- Training plan for NIH ethics requirement
    - Ex.: If plan to take or have taken MCB ethics course requirement, outline topics covered and how they were covered (texts read, exercises etc.)
  - List any other possible ethics courses, workshops or ethics discussions or mentorship with sponsors
- Length: One page



# RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Delineate applicant role in obtaining preliminary data generated for proposal vs. others
- Applicant role in preparing grant application
- Length: One page

