

F31 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the F31 predoctoral fellowship is to promote diversity in health-related research by providing up to five years of support for research training leading to the PhD or equivalent research degree, the combined MD/PhD degree; or another formally combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences. These fellowships will enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, health services, and clinical research labor force in the United States by providing opportunities for academic institutions to identify and recruit students from diverse population groups to seek graduate degrees in health-related research and apply for this fellowship. The goal of this program is to increase the number of scientists from diverse population groups who are prepared to pursue careers in biomedical, behavioral, social, clinical, or health services research.

The NIH expects that efforts to diversify the workforce will lead to:

- The recruitment of the most talented researchers from all groups;
- An improvement in the quality of the educational and training environment;
- A balanced perspective in setting research priorities;
- An improved capacity to recruit subjects from diverse backgrounds into clinical research protocols;
- An improved capacity to address and eliminate health disparities.

This seeks to stimulate the participation of individuals from the following groups: (A) individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; (B) individuals with disabilities; and (C) individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research.

A Fellowship Applicant must have a baccalaureate degree and be currently enrolled in a PhD or equivalent research degree program (e.g., EngD, DNSc, Dr PH, DSW, PharmD, PsyD, ScD), a formally combined MD/PhD program, or other combined professional/clinical doctoral/research PhD graduate program (e.g., DDS/PhD) in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at an accredited domestic or foreign institution. With the exception of the combined degree programs described above, the Kirschstein-NRSA fellowship may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DDS, or other clinical, health-professional training (e.g., DC, DMD, DNP, DO, DPM, DVM, ND, OD). Neither may these awards be used to support the clinical years of residency training.

Visit the parent F31 Diversity FOA at [PA-09-209](#).

MORE INFORMATION

To read more about the review criteria and considerations for F31 Diversity 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.