NSF RESEARCH TRAINEESHIP (NRT) PROGRAM: TIPS FOR COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINAR SERIES

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Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

Please note that this session is being recorded
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

We provide proposal development assistance across the spectrum*

Meet goals in the UI strategic plan – grow research and creative efforts across all disciplines

Reach out to discuss ideas with us and request service – uidaho.edu/orfd

*Not including budget preparation

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis
OBJECTIVES

IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL DISCUSS:

1. Program basics
2. Limited submission process & timeline
3. NRT - Goals, Focus, Budget, Themes, Criteria
4. General tips for competitive proposals
5. Q&A Session - Dr. Vinod Lohani, Program Director in NSF Directorate for Education & Human Resources (from 1 - 1:30 p.m.)
NRT PROGRAM - BASICS

Funding & Duration: $3,000,000 for projects up to 5 years

Annual Deadlines:
- Letter of Intent (required) – November 25 – December 6
- Full Proposal Deadline – February 6

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: 2
- An eligible organization may participate in two proposals per competition (includes serving as a lead organization, non-lead organization, or subawardee on any proposal)
- RFD uses internal review process to determine which proposals will be submitted
NRT - LIMITED SUBMISSION PROCESS

USING INFOREADY REVIEW:

Notice of Intent (NOI) Deadline
Sept. 14, 2020
Oct. 2, 2020
Dec. 6, 2020 (LOI)
Feb. 6, 2021 (Full)

via UI’s InfoReady Review System
VERAS & Research.gov

*All deadlines are at 5:00 pm Pacific Time.*
WHY NRT?

New approaches to STEM graduate education are needed to:

- Keep up with accelerated pace of STEM discoveries and innovations
- Equip emerging scientists to address grand challenges that require interdisciplinary and convergent approaches
NRT PROGRAM - GOALS

1. Catalyze and advance cutting-edge interdisciplinary or convergent* research in high priority areas.

2. Prepare diverse set of graduate students for research and research-related careers within and outside of academia.

3. Develop new approaches and knowledge that will promote transformative improvements in graduate school.

*Research that integrates knowledge, methods, and expertise from different disciplines into novel frameworks to catalyze scientific discovery and innovation.
NRT PROPOSAL - FOCUS

NRT Proposals should focus on:

1. Technical and professional training of STEM graduate students that emphasizes:
   - Research training
   - Technical and professional skills development
   - Mentoring and vocational counseling

2. Techniques, languages, and cultures of interdisciplinary or convergent research fields.
WHO ARE TRAINEES?

- STEM graduate students accepted into an institution’s NRT program, irrespective of funding status, who complete required NRT elements (e.g., courses, workshops, projects, training activities).

- Must be master's and/or doctoral STEM students in a research-based degree program that requires a thesis or dissertation.

- Must be full-time students and hold U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.
BUDGET

- Up to $3,000,000 for projects up to 5 years

- Trainee Support (e.g., stipend, tuition, required fees)
  - Research-based master’s and/or doctoral students
  - Students whose research aligns with project’s research theme
  - Must be full-time students and hold U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status
  - Should receive 12 continuous mos. of stipend support over an annual period

- Additional costs (travel, subsistence, other) for trainees (NRT-funded, non-NRT-funded) to participate in the program

- Should include budget for NRT Program Coordinator, evaluator, and travel to annual NRT meetings and orientation
NRT RESEARCH THEMES (19-522)

- Interdisciplinary research themes of national priority
- Special emphasis on research areas listed in NSF's 10 Big Ideas.

*Stay tuned for new program solicitation*
NRT PROJECT DESCRIPTION (20 pgs. max)

Must include sections 4(A) - (J):

A. List of Core Participants
B. Theme, Vision, and Goals
C. Education and Training
D. Major Research Efforts
E. Broader Impacts
F. Organization and Management
G. Recruitment, Mentoring, and Retention
H. Performance Assessment/Project Evaluation
I. Recent Student Training Experiences
J. Results from Prior NSF Support
REVIEW CRITERIA

Intellectual Merit  *Must address even though separate section labeled "Intellectual Merit" is **not required** for proposals to this solicitation.

Broader Impacts

Additional Review Criteria

- Integration of Science and Education
- Interdisciplinarity
- Integrating Diversity into NSF Program, Projects, and Activities
- Evaluation
- Sustainability
- Model Dissemination
TIPS FOR COMPETITIVE NRT PROPOSALS

- Use new NRT Program Solicitation
- Familiarize yourself with NSF's 10 Big Ideas
- Review national reports on state of STEM graduate education
- Get copies of funded NRT proposals (NSF Awards Advanced Search)
- Contact Program Directors
- RFD can assist you!
  - Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
  - Url: https://www.uidaho.edu/research/about/orfd
### FALL 2020

- **Sept. 9** NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal
- **Sept. 23** NSF CAREER All Year: Getting Ready to Apply
- **Sept. 30** NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal
- **Oct. 7** Find Funding Opportunities: Introduction to Pivot
- **Oct. 21** NSF CAREER All Year: Getting Started on Your Proposal
- **Nov. 4** UPDATE: Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research-Infrastructure Network (MW CTR-IN) Funding Opportunities
- **Nov. 18** Myth-busting Department of Defense Funding Opportunities
- **Dec. 2** M. J. Murdock Trust’s Commercialization Initiation Program: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal

### SPRING 2021

- **Jan. 13** Find Funding Opportunities: Introduction to Pivot
- **Jan. 27** Funding Research and Scholarly Work in the Humanities
- **Feb. 3** Idaho is an EPSCoR State - What This Means for Supporting Your Research
- **Feb. 17** How to Develop and Deliver an Effective Pitch
- **Mar. 3** Assessing Your Grant Readiness
- **Mar. 24** Early Career Faculty Research - Grant Programs
- **Apr. 7** USDA NIFA AFRI: Tips for Getting Started with Your Next Proposal
- **Apr. 14** Developing Data Management Plans - Best Practices and Resources
- **Apr. 28** Equipment Grant Programs: An Overview

### ZOOM ID

uidaho.zoom.us/j/95865360877

**THANK YOU!**

**QUESTIONS?**

WE GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS

Office of Research and Faculty Development | Email: orfdteam@uidaho.edu

Website: uidaho.edu/orfd
GUEST SPEAKER Q&A

Q & A with Dr. Vinod Lohani, Program Director in NSF Directorate for Education & Human Resources

- Brief overview & introductory comments about NRT
- Q&A session

Email: vlohani@nsf.gov
Phone: (703) 292-2330
NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program

Vinod K Lohani, PhD
Program Director
Division of Graduate Education
National Science Foundation

Faculty Success Seminar, University of Idaho
Encouraging the development of innovative models for interdisciplinary/convergent STEM graduate training

Key Traineeship Goals
• Interdisciplinary/Convergent Research
• Institutional Change
• Workforce Development

Solicitation NSF 19-522 - up to $3M over 5 years
(New solicitation will be posted in late fall)
Architecture of a successful NRT
NSF & NRT Merit Review Criteria

NRT-specific criteria

- Integration of research & education
- Interdisciplinarity/Convergence
- Professional development/training
- Integrating diversity
- Evaluation

NSF criteria

- Intellectual merit
- Broader impacts
Thanks for your attention!

Questions?