

Fellowships

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What is a Fellowships?

- Period of prolonged time (1-3 years) to gain clinical or research training and expertise
- Generally occurs during or immediately following residency
- Or, **Money** to fund this type of activity

Type of Fellowships

- Organization Sponsored, eg AATS, SUS, ASA, ACC, AHA, AAS, ACS, etc
- Industry Sponsored- eg Bayer, Novartis
- F-32 Individual National
Research Service Award (NRSA)
- T-32 Institutional NRSA
- Intramural NIH research fellowships
- Go to AATS website and click on fellowships

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

- Offers Health Scientists 2-3 years of full time research training (40 h per week) in biomedical, clinical or behavioral research
- Does Not support residency training, although some limited clinical activity is allowed if related to research activity
- Provides salary support (\$35-50,000 per year), modest support for travel, tuition, supplies (\$5,500 per year)

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

Who is eligible?

- Must have MD, PhD or equivalent degree and have arranged to work with a sponsor
- Must be US citizen, noncitizen national or legal permanent resident (green card)
- Reasonable record of accomplishment and have potential for academic career
- Women and under-represented minority groups encouraged to apply

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

Special emphasis

- Multi-disciplinary research encouraged
- Widen scope of interests and capabilities
- Multi-disciplinary programs in training, networking, collaboration encouraged
- Collaboration with other institutions and industry encouraged

F-32 (NRSA) Funding Necessary Competencies

- Novel or under-represented areas of scientific need
- Training in bioethics, clinical trials and behavioral science
- Training in survival skills- grant writing, manuscript preparation, public speaking, mentorship, establishing research collaboration

F-32 (NRSA) Funding Necessary Competencies

- Group mentorship-multiple senior investigators lend expertise to the trainee
- Encourage interaction with junior investigators
- Institution needs to demonstrate facilities and track record for mentoring

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

How is it evaluated?

Candidate- Must show potential for a career in academic medicine or biomedical field (grades, degrees, past accomplishments, awards, dedication to academic career)

Sponsor and Institution- Most important

Research proposal- supposed to be less important, but it needs to detail research plan and be feasible, follow the instructions

Training potential-Will the F-32 funded training further candidates career?

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

The Sponsor and Institution

- Must be chosen prior to applying
- Active, NIH funded investigator
- MUST have adequate funding
- Does NOT have to be a surgeon
- Available to directly supervise research
- Facilities for high quality research
- Track record of training fellows
- Foreign research training possible, but applicant must show a need

F-32 (NRSA) Funding

What are the chances?

- Peer review via CSR, special study section
- Reviewers may or likely may not be surgeons
- 30-50% of applicants are funded
- It looks good on your CV
- Payback requirement
- Choose a successful, NIH funded scientist as a mentor, surgeon can be co-mentor

T-32 (Institutional NRSA)

Funding

- Must be US citizen or US permanent resident (green card)
- Institution must have the T-32 training grant
- For full time research for 1-3 years
- Apply at Institutional Level
- Much easier for the Applicant
- Women and under-represented groups encouraged to apply
- Similar salary support but less travel and other support money than for Individual NRSA
- Check with your department or other departments

NIH Intra-mural Research

- Excellent programs in nearly all areas of research including cardiac surgery, vascular biology, cardiology and oncology
- Generally 2-3 year commitment
- Salary support and nearly unlimited research support
- Need to move to Bethesda

Summary-Fellowships

- Fellowships are available from NIH, Industry, and Professional organizations
- Provide salary and limited other support
- Must apply, They are competitive
- Allow young investigator to receive high quality research training and develop a track record for future funding
- Most important-chose a mentor with a very good track record of funding, publication and training researchers in your area