

NIH K Series General Guidelines

About

Research Career Development Awards (K) provide individual and institutional research training opportunities (including international) to trainees at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels.

K Series Awards include, but are not limited to, the following:

<i>K01 – Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award</i>	For support of postdoctoral or early career research scientists committed to research, in need of both advanced research training and additional experience.
<i>K02 – Independent Research Scientist Development Award</i>	For support of an early to mid-career scientists with research funding, in need of additional protected time committed to research.
<i>K05 – Senior Research Scientist Award</i>	For the support of a senior research scientist with research funding, to pursue independent research, and to serve as a mentor to more junior research scientists.
<i>K07 – Academic Career Development Award</i>	To support either a mentored or independent investigator to develop or enhance curricula, foster academic career development of promising young teacher-investigators, and to strengthen existing teaching programs.
<i>K18 – Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators</i>	Provides either full-time or part-time support for experienced scientists who wish to broaden their research capabilities or to make changes in their research careers by acquiring new research skills or knowledge.
<i>K22 – Career Transition Award</i>	To provide support to outstanding newly trained basic or clinical investigators to develop their independent research skills through a two-phase program; an initial mentored research experience, followed by a period of independent research.

Learn more: [Research Career Development Awards \(K\)](#)

Sample Applications: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications>

Helpful Links

- [How to Apply – Application Guide](#)
- [Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#)
- [Page Limits](#)
- [Format Attachments](#)

- [Use of Hyperlinks in NIH Grant Applications](#)
- [Salary Cap & Stipends](#)

General Information

**If general/project information, required documents, and page limits are different from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the NOFO wins.*

<i>Application Characteristics</i>	
<i>Project Period</i>	K22 – Up to 2 years All other K series – Up to 5 years
<i>Budget</i>	<p>Most career development award programs provide support for salary, fringe benefits, and research-related costs. The NIH will support a salary allowance that is commensurate with the actual level of effort, up to the allowable cap for that program, based on a full-time, 12-month position.</p> <p>The salary must be consistent with both the established salary structure at the institution and salaries provided by the grantee institution from its own funds and/or non-federal funds to other staff members of equivalent qualifications, rank, and responsibilities in the applicable department.</p> <p>Fringe benefits are requested separately from salary and must be based on the salary requested in the application. The recipient institution may supplement the NIH salary contribution up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale.</p>
<i>Effort Requirements</i>	<p>For most K award programs, the K awardee must commit a minimum of 9 person months (equivalent to 75% full-time professional effort), directly to their research project and career development activities.</p> <p>The remaining effort (up to 25%) can be devoted to additional research, teaching, clinical work, or other efforts complementary to career development of the K awardee.</p> <p>The minimum required level of effort must be maintained throughout the life of the K award unless prior approval (in writing) is obtained from NIH</p>

<i>Due Dates</i>			
<i>LOI Due Date</i>	As applicable		
<i>New Grant Applications</i>	February 12	June 12	October 12

<i>Renewal, Resubmission and Revision Applications</i>	March 12	July 12	November 12
<i>AIDS and Aids-related Applications</i>	May 7	September 7	January 7

Uploaded Documents

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<i>Project Information</i>		
<i>Project Summary/Abstract</i>	30 lines of text	Required
<i>Project Narrative</i>	2-3 Sentences	Required
<i>Bibliography & References Cited</i>	No page restriction	Required, unless otherwise noted in the FOA
<i>Facilities & Other Resources</i>	No page restriction	Required, unless otherwise noted in the FOA
<i>Equipment</i>	No page restriction	List major items of equipment available for the project.
<i>Other Attachments</i>		As applicable

<i>Senior/Key Personnel</i>		
<i>Biographical Sketch</i>	5 pages each	Required to use SciENCv Template
<i>Current & Pending Support</i>	No page restriction	If required, use SciENCv Template

<i>Budget</i>		
<i>Type/Format</i>	Modular Budget	R&R Detailed Budget
	Use Modular Budget for requests up to \$250,000 of direct costs/year	Use Detailed Budget for requests greater than \$250,000 of direct costs/year.
<i>Budget Justification</i>	Provide personnel justification only, no amounts.	Justify all costs including Data Management and Sharing plan costs.
<i>Additional Narrative Justification</i>	Justify Data Management and Sharing plan costs, if any. If no costs associated, disclose.	

<i>Research Plan</i>		
<i>Introduction to Application</i>	1 page maximum	For resubmission and revision applications only
<i>Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development and Research Strategy</i>	12 pages	Required
<i>Specific Aims</i>	1 page	Required
<i>Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research</i>	1 page	Required
<i>Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research</i>	3 pages	Required for K12 and KL2 applications
<i>Program Plan</i>	25 pages	Required for K12 and KL2 applications
<i>Candidate's Plan to Provide Mentoring Plans and Statements of Mentor and Co-Mentor(s)</i>	6 pages	As applicable
	6 pages	Required
<i>Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility</i>	3 pages	Required for K12 and KL2 applications
<i>Description of Institutional Environment</i>	1 page	Required
<i>Progress Report Publication List</i>	5 pages for a program overview and 1 page for each appointee to the grant	For K12 and KL2 renewal applications only

<i>Other Research Plan Section</i>		
<i>Vertebrate Animals</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Select Agent Research</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Consortium/Contractual Agreements</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants</i>	6 pages	Required
<i>Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development</i>	1 page	Required
<i>Resource Sharing Plan</i>	No page restriction	Required
<i>Other Plans</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Plan</i>	No page restriction	Required. DMS Plan Guidelines
<i>Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources</i>	1 page maximum	As applicable
<i>Appendix</i>	Refer to FOA guidelines for page restrictions	Only if FOA requests appendix materials
<i>PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information</i>	No page restriction	As applicable