**NIH R16 (SuRE) General Guidelines**

**About**

The purpose of SuRE awards is to provide research grant support for faculty investigators at resource-limited institutions (less than $6 million/year) who are not currently funded by any NIH Research Project Grants (RPGs) with the exception of SuRE or SuRE-First awards, to furnish students with high-quality undergraduate and/or graduate research experiences and to enhance the institutional scientific research culture. Additionally, eligible institutions must enroll at least 25% of undergraduate students supported by Pell grants based on the most recent two years of data available from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) database. MTSU is a SuRE eligible institution. Faculty who do not currently have NIH funding may apply for SuRE. Faculty who have never received an externally funded research grant may apply for SuRE-First.

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| General Information | |
| NOFO | [PA-25-414](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-25-414.html) (expires September 8, 2028) |
| Standard Due Dates | Generally end of September and May. See NOFO for specific dates. |
| Project Period | Up to 4 years |
| Budget Limit | Up to $100,000 per year in direct costs. Full indirects provided. Cost sharing not required. |
| Sample Applications | [Link to sample applications](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications) |

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| Formatting Information | |
| Document | PDF only with no headers or footers. |
| Font type | Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype are recommended. |
| Font size | Minimum 11 pt. Smaller font is acceptable in figures and graphs but must be legible when viewed at 100% zoom. |
| Margins | Minimum 0.5 inches on all sides. |
| Other formatting | [Link to additional formatting instructions.](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm) |

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| Required Proposal Documents | |
| Project Summary | (no more than 30 lines) Concise description of the importance, objectives, and methodology of the proposal suitable for public dissemination. |
| Project Narrative | (3 sentences) Description of the public health relevance of the proposal suitable for a lay audience. |
| Specific Aims | (1 page) A highly important document for all NIH proposals. Concisely state the importance, goals, and specific objectives (Aims) of the proposal. Describe expected outcomes and impact on the research field if successful. |
| Research Strategy | (6 pages) Should include the following headed sections;   1. Significance: Describe the importance of the problem being addressed, current barriers in the field, and how the proposed research addresses the problem/barriers. Describe how achievement of the proposed research will advance the research field. 2. Innovation: Depending on the nature of the proposed research, describe;    1. How the proposed research challenges existing paradigms in the field.    2. How the proposed concepts or methodologies are novel and advantageous over existing concepts or methodologies.    3. Any refinements, improvements, or new applications of existing concepts, methodologies, or instrumentation to advance an existing field. 3. Approach: This section will be the most detailed description of the proposed research strategy and methodology that will lead to successful completion of the proposed Aims. This section can be organized in different ways as preferred by the PI, but is often sectioned out by Aim with appropriate figures for easier reading. Should include the following information;    1. Preliminary Data: Not required for an R15, but successful proposals include preliminary results that support the proposed research.    2. Research Plan: Detailed discussion of the proposed research plan and methods, including appropriate controls and statistical analysis.    3. Potential Problems and Alternative Strategies: Identify likely places that the proposed methods may struggle or fail. Describe alternative strategies (methods and techniques) that would be used to circumvent or overcome these problems.    4. Expected Outcomes: Describe expected results from the proposed research. Could include milestones or “go-no-go” criteria.    5. Student Involvement: Since the R15 is focused on involving undergraduate students in biomedical research, it is beneficial to describe briefly how students will be involved in the proposed experiments. Clearly articulate what research will be done by undergraduates versus graduates. 4. Student Involvement Plan: Unique to the R16, describe how students will be involved and supervised in conducting hands-on, rigorous research, including their participation in the execution, analysis, and reporting of the research. |
| Bibliography & References Cited | (no page limit) Complete listing of the references cited in the Research Strategy. |
| Biosketches | (5 pages per person) Required for each Senior/Key Personnel (PI or Co-PIs) and Other Significant Contributors. Should review [specific biosketch formatting requirements](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm). Can be prepared using [SciENcv](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/). Should include sections for personal statement, awards and honors, and contributions to science. Specific for the R16, publications should indicate with an asterisk the names of any student authors who were directly supervised by the PD/PI. Additionally, it would be beneficial to describe previous mentoring of undergraduates in research within the personal statement. |
| Facilities and Other Resources | (no page limit) A detailed description of the facilities (lab, computer, animal) and resources (supplies, space, time, funding) provided by the institution that support the capability to complete the proposed research. Would be beneficial to discuss the following:   1. the institutional student profile (demographics, diversity, etc.), 2. unique characteristics of the institution that make it appropriate for an R16 award, 3. likely impact of the R16 award on the PI, institution, and students in pursuit of careers in biomedical research, 4. facilities (lab, computer, animal) and resources (equipment, supplies, space, time, funding) provided by the institution for the proposed research.   It is expected that the research will be directed by the PD/PI and the majority of experiments will be conducted at the applicant institution. Limited use of special facilities or equipment at another institution is permitted but should be well-justified. For any proposed research facilities or equipment at a site(s) other than the applicant institution, provide a description of the resources and describe the PD/PI’s access to these resources. See NOFO for detailed description of what to include in this section. |
| Equipment | (no page limit) Provide a list of equipment pertinent to the proposed research along with its location and capabilities. |
| Budget | Use the Modular Budget form, requesting direct funds in $25,000 increments. Budgets should be drafted by the PI, refined and approved by ORSP, and completed in NIH ASSIST by ORSP. Given the goal of the R16 award, inclusion of undergraduate student salaries is strongly encouraged. If undergraduate student salaries are not included, should indicate how students will be financially supported in the research. |
| Budget Justification | (no page limit) Detailed justification of the requested funds. If specific undergraduate researchers have been identified as participants in the proposed research, provide their name and academic level. |
| Data Management and Sharing Plan | Complete the [Data Management and Sharing Plan Format Page](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/data-management-and-sharing-plan-format-page). Describes the type of data that will be collected and how it will be preserved, accessed, and distributed. |
| Institutional Letter – Strategic Plan for Building Research Capacity and Research Excellence | A letter from the Provost, the President, or the Vice-President for Research that describes the institution’s strategic plan for the development of research capacity and research excellence is required. The letter should address the institution’s vision and commitment to develop and sustain an environment that enables and rewards research and how this research will support the educational mission of the institution. |
| Institutional Letter – Support for the PD/PI’s Research Career Development | A letter from the Department Chair or Dean is required and should confirm that the time and effort requested by the PD/PI for the proposed project will be provided. Additional institutional support to the PD/PI, including mentoring, should also be described. |
| Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP) | (1 page) All applications must include a summary of strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project through expanded inclusivity. The PEDP should provide a holistic and integrated view of how enhancing diverse perspectives is viewed and supported throughout the application and can incorporate elements with relevance to any review criteria.  See NOFO for detailed description of what to include in this section. |

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| If Applicable/Optional Proposal Documents | |
| Resource Sharing Plan | If developing any [model organisms or new research tools as defined by the NIH](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/resource-sharing-plan), describe the plan for sharing these resources. |
| Vertebrate Animals | Required if working with vertebrate animals. Describe proposed procedures involving animals, including species, strains, ages, sex, and total number to be used, justifications for the use of animals versus alternative models, interventions to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury, and justification for euthanasia method if not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. |
| Protection of Human Subjects | Required if working with human subjects. Complete the Study Record form in ASSIST for each proposed study involving human subjects. |
| Select Agent Research | Required if working with a [federally designated Select Agent](https://www.selectagents.gov/sat/list.htm). |
| Multi-PI Leadership Plan | Since the SuRE award is structured to best support a single PD/PI, multiple PD(s)/PI(s) are not allowed. |
| Authentication of Key Biological And/Or Chemical Resources | Required if working with key biological or chemical agents. Briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies. |
| Letters of Support | Optional. Can solicit letters from collaborators or institution programs supporting the proposed research. |
| Consortium | Required if issuing a subaward from the institution. Should be completed by the institution receiving the subaward. |
| Introduction to Resubmission | (1 page) Required if proposal is a resubmission. Should address reviewer concerns from original submission and specify how the proposal has been strengthened. |
| Progress Report Publication List | Required if proposal is a renewal. List the titles and complete references to all appropriate publications, manuscripts accepted for publication, patents, and other printed materials that have resulted from the project since it was last reviewed competitively. List the PubMed Central ID (PMCID) for each publication that was authored by the PI arising from NIH support. |