Internal Selection Procedures

for

National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Program


Summary: The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development of bold, new, potentially transformative, and scalable models for STEM graduate training that ensure that graduate students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The NRT program includes two tracks: the Traineeship Track and the Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track. The Traineeship Track is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, aligned with changing workforce and research needs, and scalable. For this solicitation the Traineeship Track has one priority interdisciplinary research theme - Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (DESE); also on any non-DESE interdisciplinary research theme that is a national priority. The IGE Track is dedicated solely to piloting, testing, and evaluating novel, innovative, and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, to generate the knowledge required for their customization, implementation, and broader adoption. Whereas the Traineeship Track promotes building on the current knowledge base to more effectively train STEM graduate students, the IGE TRACK supports test-bed projects with high attention to transferability and innovation. For both tracks, strategic collaborations with the section, non-governmental organizations (NGO’s), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, museums, and academic partners are encouraged.

Proposal Limitations: Each institution may submit up to THREE proposals (two (2) Traineeship Track, one (1) for Innovation in Graduate Education Track). If an institution submits only one proposal, it can be in either DESE or another theme. If an institution submits two proposals, at least one must be in DESE. In any case, the traineeship theme(s) should be interdisciplinary.

Selection Process: The following procedures for an internal Notice of Intent (NOI) describe the process to select the proposal that will be submitted on behalf of the University. Should more than the allowable number of NOIs be received from across the University, a review process will be implemented by the OVPRED to select that proposal which will represent the University. The OVPRED will notify each applicant whether or not their proposal has been selected to move forward and represent the University.

Proposal Schedule: Internal NOI due to OSP on 20 February 2015, 5:00 p.m. CST
Notification of NOIs selected to move forward by 27 Feb. 2015, 5:00 p.m. CST
Letter of Intent due to NSF (optional) 25 March 2015, 5:00 CST
Full Proposal due to OSP on 06 May 2015, 5:00 a.m. CST
Full Proposal due to NSF on 06 May 2015, 5:00 p.m. CST
**NOI Format and Content:**
Proposal pages should have at least 1” margins all around, and use no smaller than a 12-point font Times New Roman for the text. Tables and figures are exempt from the 12-point requirement, but must be clearly legible.

*Submission Method:* Electronic files emailed to OSP Contract Administrator.

*NOI Contents:*

1. **Cover Page:**
   a. Include “NSF 15-542 NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) DESE” OR “NSF 15-542 NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Other Theme – name)”
   b. The proposal title should begin with component acronym “NRT.” For example, “NRT: This is My Proposal Title.”
   c. Names, departments/centers, and email address for each PI, Co-I, and key personnel.

2. **Project Summary:** (Limit: 2 pages double-spaced) The Project Summary must consist of an overview, a separate statement on the **intellectual merit** of the proposed activity, and a separate statement on the **broader impacts** of the proposed activity.

3. **Project Description:** (Limit: 6 pages, double-spaced) (See NSF 15-542 section V.A. 4. a for information required for full proposal project description. Provide only a brief summary of each element listed below for this internal 6-page limit).
   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

4. One to two-page tentative budget and budget justification showing estimated costs and justification (the OSP Contract Administrator is available to assist you if requested)

5. One to two-page bio for each PI, Co-I and key personnel proposed.

*Questions about the internal NOI preparation or process should be directed to your OSP Contract Administrator.*

UAH OSP – February 9, 2015