

NIH Fellowship-Writing Workshop Series Announcement!

The Office of Research, Purdue Institute for Cancer Research (PICR), and Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars (OGSPS) are launching an intensive NIH Fellowship-Writing Workshop Series for PhD students, MD/PhD students, and postdoctoral researchers.

The series is designed for participants preparing an application for an NIH fellowship (F30, F31, F32) or transition award (F99/K00, *K99/R00). The workshop is designed to help participants prepare a competitive application for the April 2027 submission cycle through lectures, expert advisement, structured writing deadlines, peer/faculty review, and draft feedback. *K99/R00 is on a different cycle and participants should be ready for either Feb or June 2027 submission dates.

Which NIH mechanism is right for you?

Mechanism	Career Stage	Ideal Application Time	Current Parent NOFO	Citizenship Eligibility
F30	MD/PhD or other dual-degree student	Just before or shortly after entering full-time PhD research	PA-25-426	U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Permanent Resident required
F31	PhD student	After qualifying exams with a well-developed dissertation project	PA-25-422	U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Permanent Resident required
F99/K00	PhD → Postdoc transition	Final 1-2 years before PhD completion	PA-27-037	Varies by Institute. Some Institutes allow application before citizenship/permanent residency is obtained; applicants must review Institute-specific requirements.
F32	Postdoc	Late-stage PhD candidate or early postdoc	PA-25-423	U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Permanent Resident required
K99/R00	Postdoc → Faculty transition	Approximately 2-3 years into postdoctoral training	PA-24-194	No U.S. citizenship or permanent residency requirement

Parent NOFOs current as of August 2026. Applicants should verify Institute-specific requirements and the most recent NIH announcement prior to submission.

Which NIH Institute is right for you?

Visit <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/funding-categories/research-training-and-career-development/individual-fellowships/ico-funding-considerations>

Why apply for an NIH Fellowship or Award?

- ***Provides dedicated research funding and protected training time***, allowing trainees to focus on developing research skills and completing high-impact projects.
- ***Demonstrates scientific promise and competitiveness*** through a rigorous national peer-review process.
- ***Strengthens grant-writing and project management skills***, which are essential for future funding success.
- ***Enhances CVs and biosketches***, making recipients more competitive for postdoctoral positions, faculty jobs, and future grants.
- ***Provides national recognition and visibility*** within an applicant's research field.
- ***Often serves as a stepping stone to larger NIH awards***, helping recipients build a track record of funding success.

Who should participate?

Eligible students and postdocs in the ideal application windows who:

- Can commit to the 6-month schedule of lectures, draft-writing, and peer-draft review.
- Have an advisor/PI who can commit to reviewing drafts and providing feedback throughout the series.
- Are actively preparing, or seriously considering, an NIH F30, F31, F32, F99/K00, or K99/R00 application.

What will the workshop series cover?

- The workshop breaks the writing process into 3 sections: Specific Aims (1 page), Research Strategy (6 pages), and Candidate/Training section (6 pages). Each section has associated lectures and a peer/faculty review process.
 - o For F99/K00 and K99/R00, we plan to match you with a faculty coach for the Candidate section because it has a different focus than the other F awards.
- Expert guest speakers give advice throughout the series and are available for questions.
- Near the end, participants will get help completing their Biosketch and Supplemental Documents, and can (optionally) have their entire draft reviewed by an NIH-experienced faculty member or current fellow.
- By the end of the workshop, participants should have a complete full-application draft that is ready for final advisor, SPS, and submission review.
- Faculty advisors/PIs have access to all workshop materials and can attend any session.

When and where does it meet?

- The workshop will run from **September 14, 2026, to February 11, 2027**, aiming for the submission deadline of April 8, 2027 (or alternate cycle for K99/R00)
- All lectures and advisement sessions will be held in-person on **Mondays from 9:00 to 10:20 AM in Pierce Hall (PRCE) 277**. If you cannot attend any or all sessions, you can access recordings and slides that will be posted by end of day.
 - o In-person attendance is highly encouraged because you will benefit from bouncing your ideas off NIH experts and asking your questions in real time.

What is the Peer-Review Time Commitment?

In addition to writing their own drafts, participants and their advisor/PI will each review drafts written by one other workshop participant.

- The total time commitment should be no longer than 4.5 hours over the full 6-month series (reviewing 3 separate draft sections at 1.5 hours each, using a rubric, and having 1 week to review each draft).
- The draft and feedback deadlines are in the timetable below.

Time Period	Goal	Lecture Dates	Advisement Dates	Your Draft Due	Peer /Faculty Feedback Due
Mid-Sept	Learn Workshop Goals and Logistics	09/14/26	NA	NA	NA
Mid-Sept to Mid-Oct	Draft Specific Aims Page	09/21/26	09/28/26 10/05/26	10/08/26	10/16/26
Mid-Oct to Mid-Dec	Draft Research Strategy Section (6 pages)	10/19/26 11/16/26	10/26/26 11/02/26 11/30/26	12/03/26	12/11/26
Mid-Dec to Late Jan	Draft Candidate/ Training Section (6 pages)	12/07/26 12/14/26	01/11/27	01/14/27	01/22/27
Late Jan to Early Feb	Complete Biosketch and Supplemental Docs	01/25/27	02/08/27	NA	NA
Mid-Feb	Submit Final Draft for Faculty Review	NA	NA	02/11/27	03/08/27
Early Apr	Submit your Proposal via SPS	NA	NA	04/08/27	NA

Who are the instructors and advisement experts?

- Lectures are provided by:
 - o Dr. Perry Kirkham of the Office of Research
 - o Dr. Ginger Bolen of College of Engineering
- Advisement experts and guest contributors include:
 - o Dr. Perry Kirkham, Office of Research
 - o Dr. Tim Gondré-Lewis, Senior Program Officer, NIAID
 - o Dr. Daniel Foti, NIH reviewer and Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, HHS
 - o Dr. Jonathan Shannahan, NIH reviewer, Professor of Toxicology, and Assistant Dean for Research Development and Innovation, HHS
 - o Selena McNeal, Pre-Award Specialist
 - o Current NIH Purdue Fellows

Why attend this workshop?

- ***Ample writing time.*** Participants will have at least one-month writing/editing time for each major section.
- ***Hands-on learning.*** Participants review peer drafts and provide feedback using an NIH-inspired scoring rubric.
- ***Multiple reviews.*** Drafts after each lecture will be reviewed by peer participants, instructors, and by each participant's mentor(s). Final application packages will be reviewed by additional NIH experts before submission.
- ***OGSPS and PICR will award \$500 to participants who submit applications!***

How do I register for the workshop?

- Begin registration form here: <https://redcap.link/nih-writing-series>
- Within the registration form, download the Faculty Sponsor Commitment Form and send to your advisor/PI to review and sign
- Upload the signed Faculty Sponsor Commitment Form within your registration form
- **Submit your registration form by NOON on September 8, 2026**

If you have any questions, please email nih-workshop@purdue.edu

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