

Systems Physiology Training Grant (STG) Application guidelines 2009

I. Eligibility

NIH policy restricts eligibility to:

- PhD candidates in good standing
- US citizens or US residents (green card)
- Students with 0 - 2 years previous appointment as a trainee

II. Application overview

- Item 1. Letter of intent (due May 15, 2010)
- Item 2. Research plan (due June 1, 2010)
- Item 3. Oral presentation

Candidates that meet the eligibility requirements and have a strong academic record will be asked to submit a research plan (Item 2) and to prepare an oral presentation (Item 3). Such candidates will be notified within one week of submitting a letter of intent.

III. Instructions

Item 1: Letter of intent

Please submit the following in a single Word document to Eva R Quinby <equinby@uoregon.edu>.

a. Personal information

- Name of student
- Department
- Name of advisor
- Year of admission to the PhD program

b. Preliminary proposal

- Project Title
- Summary of proposed research (250 words or less).

c. Academic record

- Grades
 - Neuroscience Graduate Core Course (Terms 1 - 3)
 - Statistics (if taken)
 - Other courses relevant to your research
- GRE scores with percentiles (include year taken)
- Publications and abstracts (excluding manuscripts in preparation)¹

e. Community-building activities. Please list:

- The journal clubs and seminars you regularly attend
- The years in which you have attended:
 - The Institute of Neuroscience retreat
 - The STG Fest
- Academic service activities (student committees, etc.)
- Outreach activities

¹ Please use the following terms to describe your publications: "published," "in revision," or "submitted." For abstracts, provide the conference name or equivalent.

- Other relevant activities

f. Advisor's current and pending support. Include a letter from your advisor providing current and pending support. This letter should also demonstrate the advisor's ability to continue supporting you after your STG support had ended.

g. Please provide dates in the period June 1 - Jun 15 during which you will be out of town for academic, professional or urgent personal reasons.

Item 2: Research Plan

Do not exceed three pages. Figures ARE included in the page limit and they must be integrated within the text; they may not be appended to the end of the document. References (in any format) are NOT included in the page limit. Use single-spaced, 11 pt Arial font. There are no margin restrictions, but ensure that your document can be read easily. Submit your research plan as a PDF to Peg Morrow morrow@uoneuro.uoregon.edu.

The research plan must contain the following two sections:

A. Background and Significance

Sketch the background leading to the proposed research, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and identify the gaps the project is intended to fill. Describe the significance and broader impacts of the research.

B. Specific Aims and Research Design

List the specific aims of your research, e.g., state the hypotheses you will test, the problems you will solve, or the questions you will answer. For each aim, provide a brief description of the experimental approach, expected results, and how the results will be interpreted in light of the hypothesis, problem, or question. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations.

In preparing your proposal, you are encouraged to seek the assistance of others, including your thesis advisor. Proposals that are carefully proof-read generally fare better than ones that are not.

C. Progress report (current appointees only). Describe the outcome of your research efforts in the previous year, referring to the specific aims in your most recent Research Plan. List the tangible products of your research, if any (talks, abstracts, submitted manuscripts, published papers, etc). This section is limited to 2 pages, and is not included in the overall 3 page limit of the Research Plan.

Item 3: Oral presentation

Prepare a summary of your proposal as an oral presentation for the selection committee (3-4 PI's). Plan for a 15 min presentation with a 15 min question period. Questions will be limited to the content of the proposal. You are encouraged to seek the assistance of others, including your thesis advisor, in planning and practicing your presentation.