

Stem Cell & Developmental Biology Early Career Symposium

Workshop Session: The Early Career Researcher's Guide to Navigating the Funding Landscape

Sarah Scharf, MPA

Regional Director, Europe, Israel, and Multilateral Organizations
Division of International Relations



Fogarty International Center



National Institutes of Health



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



NIH = 27 Institutes and Centers

Each with:

- Unique mission and budget
- Most fund and conduct research

Intramural Research

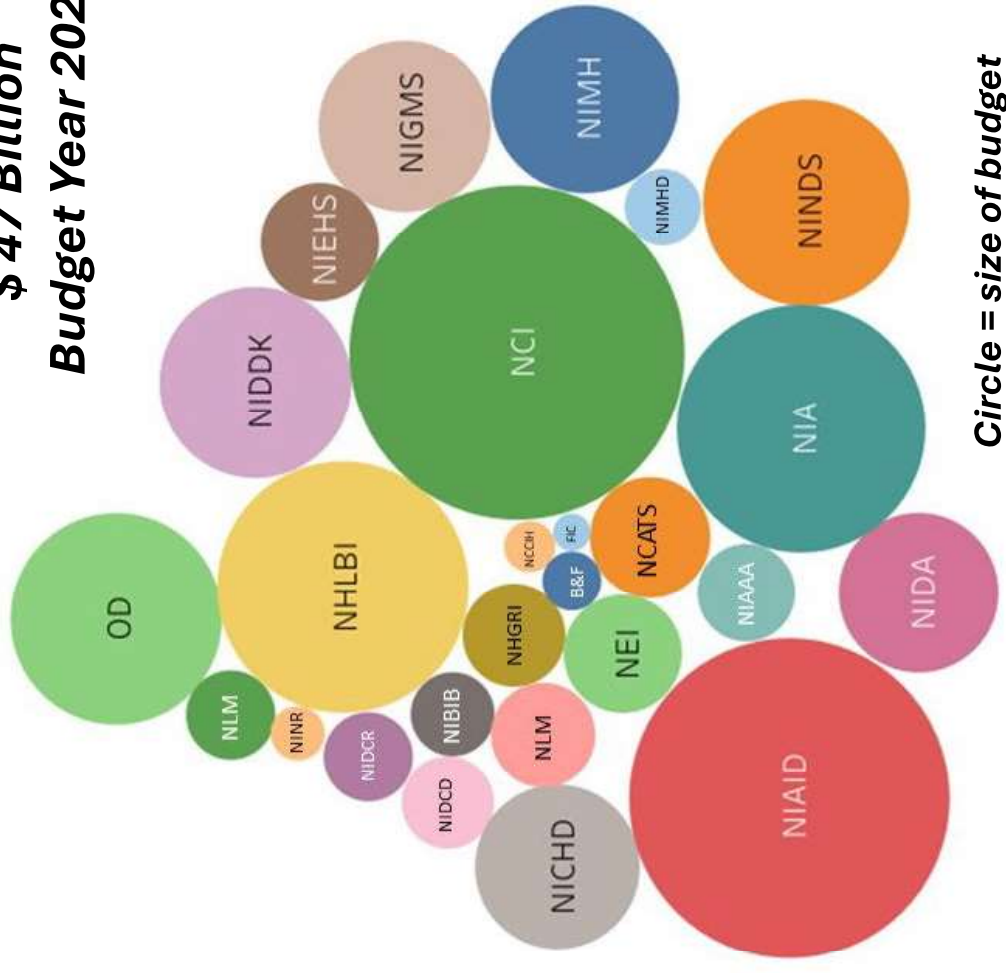
- Conducted at NIH

Extramural Research

- Funded by NIH
- Awarded to organizations in the U.S.
and abroad

ALL funded research is **peer reviewed**
Applications follow a **rigorous process**

\$ 47 Billion
Budget Year 2026



How NIH Funds Science (Extramural)



Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy

- On August 15, 2025, the NIH Director published the “[Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy](#)” to outline NIH's research priorities, including but not limited to:
 - **Training future biomedical scientists**
 - Replication and reproducibility
 - Real-World Data Platform
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Nutrition
 - Alternative testing models
 - **Improving oversight of NIH funds going to foreign research institutions**
 - Implementing advances in HIV/AIDS research

<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy>

Maximizing and Safeguarding NIH's Investment in Foreign Collaborations

- On August 25, 2025, the NIH Director published fundamental principles, which emphasize all NIH-supported international research should have:
 - 1) A clear scientific rationale to be conducted in a foreign country rather than in the United States.
 - 2) The direct potential to generate knowledge applicable to understanding, improving, or protecting the health of Americans.

These justifications must be included in a separate Foreign Justification attachment and should be integrated into the Abstract, Public Health Relevance Statement, and Specific Aims for each application.

<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/maximizing-safeguarding-nihs-investment-foreign-collaborations>

Foreign Justification – Considerations

Scientific

- Unique populations or disease presentations not available in the U.S.
- Large or high-prevalence populations enabling adequately powered studies
- Unique environmental or exposure contexts (e.g., arsenic, air pollution, extreme heat)
- Emerging infectious diseases studied at their source
- Basic biological questions requiring study of organisms, tissues, exposures, or biological processes that are present, more diverse, or more accessible outside the United States
- Established cohorts, data resources or disease registries not available in the U.S.

Foreign Justification – Considerations (Continued)

Innovation/Implementation

- Frugal or low-cost innovations that leverage opportunity for research in international settings and can be translated to comparable U.S. settings
- Comparative health systems research informing U.S. care delivery

Workforce

- Scientific expertise or infrastructure not available in the U.S.
- Research capacity needed to further NIH research in the country or countries of focus
- Research capacity required to ensure data quality, ethics, and regulatory compliance for NIH research

Foreign Justification - Exercise

Brainstorm in groups of 2-3:

- 1) For your own research: what unusual talents, resources, populations, or environmental conditions present special opportunities for research that are not readily available in the U.S., or which augment existing U.S. resources?
- 2) How does your research have the direct potential to generate knowledge applicable to understanding, improving, or protecting the health of Americans?

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-098.html>

NIH Continues to Fund Research Globally

- **NIH funds international research with scientific and technical justification through:**
 - Direct foreign awards or direct foreign awards with U.S. subawards. Check the funding opportunity for eligibility.
 - U.S. prime awards with foreign subprojects (PF5/RF2 or UF5/UL2). If chosen for funding, foreign subprojects will be converted into independent foreign awards.
- Funding opportunities allowing [foreign components](#) continue to accept applications with unfunded international collaborations or foreign components.

NIH Fogarty Career Development Programs

K01		K43	
International Research Scientist Development Award		Emerging Global Leader Award	
U.S. citizen or permanent resident, U.S. institution	LMIC citizen (see exceptions), LMIC institution		
Provides 3-5 years of mentored global health research and career development	Same		
Minimum 75% effort (min. 9 person-months)	Same		
Up to \$100,000 salary, \$40,000 research costs/year	Same		
Postdocs and Junior Faculty	Junior Faculty or Research Scientist position		
No prior major independent awards	Same		
Must have both U.S. and LMIC mentors	Same		
Must spend 50% time in LMIC + ≥ 3 months in LMIC each year	Majority of work in home country		
Scope: any health-related discipline relevant to LMIC health priorities and participating IC mission	Same		
Partners: FIC, NCI, NIDCD	Partners: FIC, NCI, NEI, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, NIDA, NIDCD, NIDCR, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS, ORWH		

LMIC = low- and middle-income countries

Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards

- Effective May 1, 2025, NIH updated its policy on foreign subawards.
- NIH created and implemented the [NIH Collaborative International Research Project Award](#).
- As part of this change, NIH prohibits foreign subawards from being nested under the parent grant.
- NIH establishes direct legal and financial relationships with the U.S. prime recipient and the collaborating foreign organizations.

New Foreign Subprojects Grant Type - New

Activity Codes [[PA-26-002](#)]

NIH Collaborative International Research Project (Parent PF5 Clinical Trial Optional)

- Posted: January 20, 2026
- First receipt date: May 25, 2026
- Uses the Multi-Component (M) Application Guide and Package
- Applicant eligibility restricted to U.S. institutions
- Investigator-initiated:
 - More flexibility in application size, structure than other multi-component funding opportunities

PF5 – Collaborative International Research Project

- Multi-component, including new component type “International Project”^f

RF2 – Linked International Research Project

- Single project, intended to replace a foreign subaward/consortium
- Disaggregated from the PF5 “International Project” component

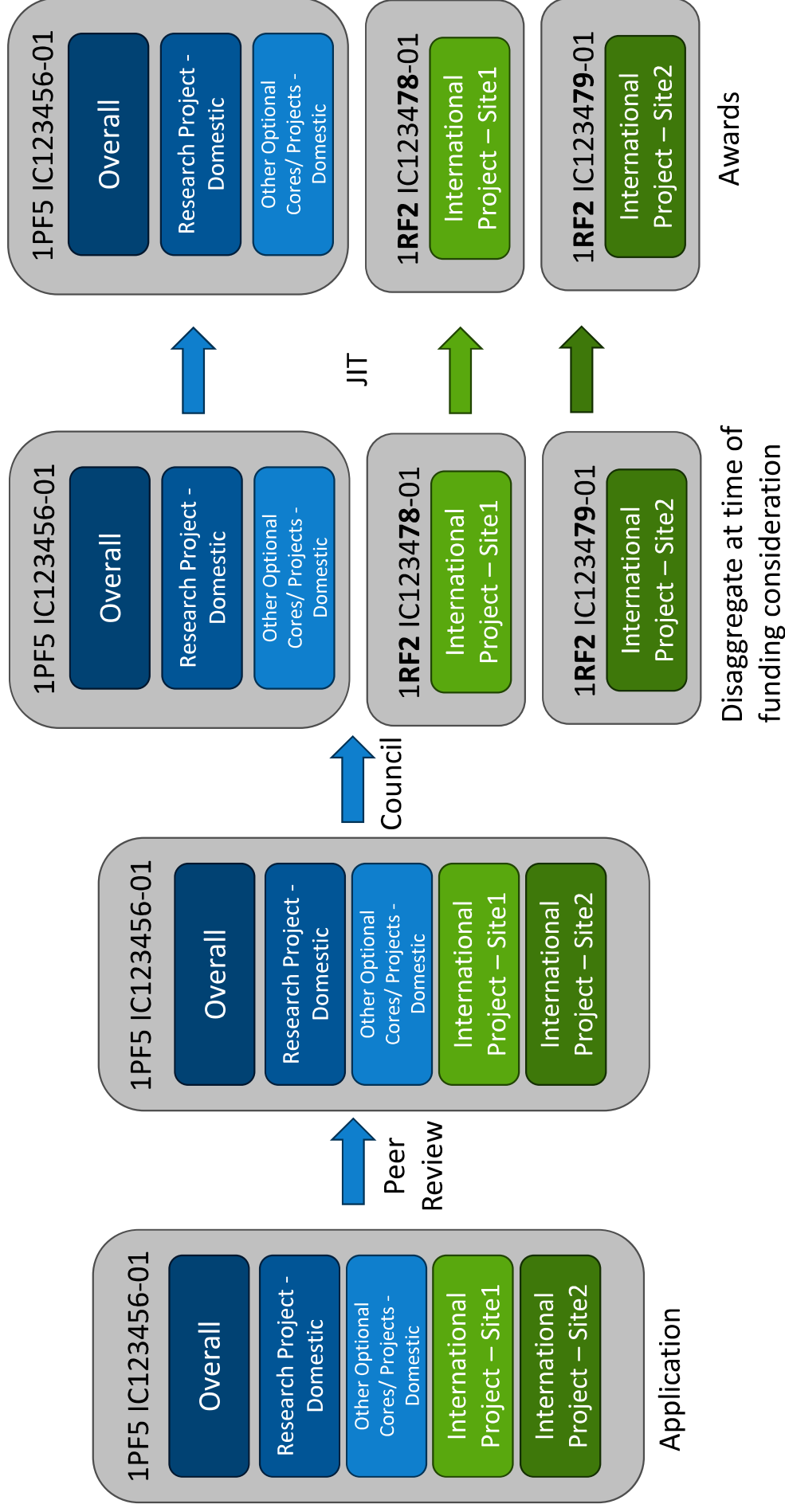
UF5 – Collaborative International Cooperative Agreement

- A cooperative agreement version of PF5

UL2 – Linked International Cooperative Agreement

- A cooperative agreement version of RF2

Disaggregation Approach



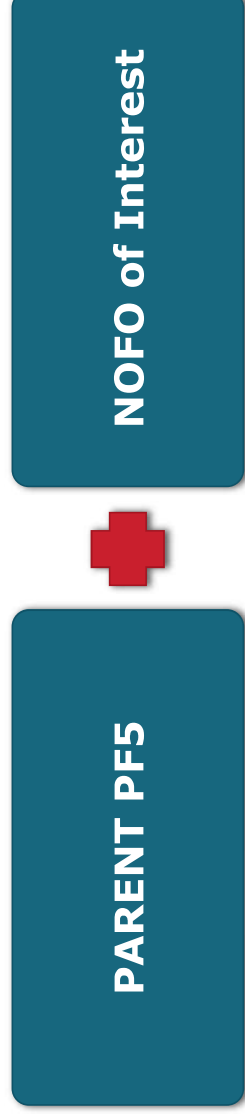
Parent PF5 Multi-Project Application Structure

Component	Required / Optional	Research Strategy Page Limits	Purpose
Overall	Required	12	Describe overall goals and collaboration approach
Research Project(s)	At least 1 Required	12	Describe scientific / technical approach; domestic budget
Other Cores / Projects	Optional	6 or 12 or 25	As needed for proposal; domestic budget
International Project(s)	At least 1 Required	6	Describe scope and role of int'l organization; int'l budget

Parent PF5 Leveraging Model



- Effective for due dates on or after September 25, U.S. institutions proposing international collaborations can apply to one of NIH's participating specialized Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) and leverage the PF5 parent.



Not an option for fellowships (Fs), institutional training grants (Ts), career development awards (Ks), and small business (SBIR/STTR)

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/PF5#instructions>

What Do I Need to Consider Before Applying to NIH?

Is similar research already funded in the U.S.?

- Applications from foreign organizations have extra review and award considerations!
- What unique resources or talent not available in the U.S. are presented?
- How does your research also benefit the health sciences in the U.S.?

What Institute or Center funds my research?

- Not every Institute or Center participates in all grant programs
- Institutes and Centers have their own unique requirements

What Study Section usually reviews projects like mine?

- NIH reviews applications by topic and discipline

Who at NIH can help me?

- **Finding the right Program Official is key**
- **Program Officials help you navigate the NIH process**
- **Helping you is part of their job!**



Where to Start...



NIH RePORTER
Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools

RePORTER

The RePORTER Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) module allows users to search a repository of NIH-funded research projects and associated publications and patents resulting from NIH funding. Enter plain text anywhere in the RePORTER Quick Search field to view the list of matching projects, or use the Advanced Search to specify search criteria and configure searches using separate search fields.

RePORTER Home **Advanced Search**

Search

RePORTER Quick Search...

About Contact FAQ

NIH Data Bank

Categorical Spending

Award by Location

Matchmaker

RePORTER

Welcome to Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT)

In addition to carrying out its scientific mission, the NIH exemplifies and promotes the highest level of public accountability. To that end, the Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities, including information on NIH expenditures and the results of NIH supported research.

Spotlight

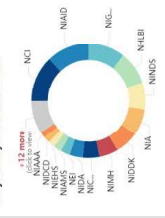
NIH COVID-19 Research
Explore a comprehensive summary of ongoing COVID-19 research, including funding, clinical trials, and more.

Expenditure Modernized RePORTERs, which offers faster searches and mobile-friendly interface.

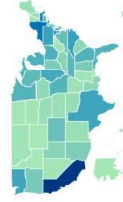
Subscribe to the RePORTER Listserve to stay up to date on changes to these sites.

RePORT Statistics

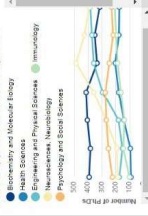
Projects by Institute/Center



Projects by State



Trends in Major Fields of Study of NIH-Supported Ph.D. Recipients



Research News

News Highlights

Which Treatment Program Is Right for You? - June 2020

<https://report.nih.gov/>

Where to Start...



NIH RePORT RePORTER

FAQs API EXPORTER Sign In

Matchmaker Results

150 POs

Rare diseases

Search

Projects

Program Officials

Filters

Active Projects

Fiscal Years

Agencies

Activity Codes

Program Officials

Study Sections

Institute/Center

Program Officials

Activity Code

Program Official

IC

Contact Information

Projects

SHARMA, KARLIE ROXANNE

NCATS

View Email

Contact info is hidden by default for privacy

10

OHAYON, JOAN M

NINDS

9

CAPORELLO, EMILY LAURA

NINDS

7

MINEAR, MOLLIE A

NICHD

7

CHEN, ALICE

NCATS

7

<https://report.nih.gov/>

Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)

- Used to advertise grant opportunities
- Contain information needed for successful application submission
 - Opportunity description
 - Participating ICs
 - Key dates
 - Award information
 - **Eligibility (PI and institution)**
 - Submission requirements
 - **Review criteria**
 - Award administration
 - Agency points-of-contact

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)
Funding Opportunity Title	Note: Not all NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) participate in Announcements. Applicants should carefully note which ICOs participate in this announcement and view their respective areas of research interest at the ICOs-Specific Scientific Interest website. ICOs that do not participate in this announcement will not consider applications for funding. GREGORI Data Coordination and Outreach Center (U01, Clinical Trials Not Allowed)
Activity Code	U01 Research Project – Cooperative Agreements
Announcement Type	New
Related Notices	Check for any recent Notices of NIH Policy Changes that may impact application requirements.
Funding Opportunity Number (FON)	RFA-HG-27-011
Companion Funding Opportunity	RFA-HG-27-012, U01 Research Project (Cooperative Agreements) RFA-HG-27-013, U01 Research Project (Cooperative Agreements)
Number of Applications	See Part 2, Section III. 3. Additional Information on Eligibility.
Assistance Listing Number(s)	93.172
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The Congress Research to Expedite the Genetics of Data Diseases Initiative (GREGORI) initiative seeks to accelerate a paradigm shift in rare disease diagnosis by reimagining the book, researcher. The program is designed to speed to identify the causal gene(s) and/or variant(s) underlying rare genetic disorders. The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity is to establish the GREGORI Data Coordination and Outreach Center. The Data Coordination and Outreach Center will act as the central point of coordination for the GREGORI Research Program, and will be responsible for ensuring that the protocols, data, metadata, computational tools and other resources developed as part of GREGORI are made available to the broader research community.

Maximum 8% Indirect Costs for Foreign Grants

Funding Opportunities Include Important Information

Section III. Eligibility Information

Foreign Institutions

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are** eligible to apply.

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are** eligible to apply.

Foreign components, as defined in the *NIH Grants Policy Statement*, **are** allowed.

Applications **directly** from
foreign organizations are
accepted.



U.S. applications can **include**
unfunded international collaborations
or foreign components.



International applicant with funded international
collaboration (from different institution) -> no
current mechanism

Can You Serve as a Peer Reviewer?

Advantage:

- Learn first-hand how NIH peer review is done
- Learn what level detail is needed for a successful application
- Appreciate the importance of grantsmanship for NIH applications

Opportunity:

<https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeAREviewer/ECR>



Home > For Reviewers > Become a Reviewer

For Reviewers

For Applicants

For Reviewers

News & Policy

Study Sections

Review Panels & Dates

About CSR

What are you searching for?
Q

Early Career Reviewer (ECR) Program

The program aims to help early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants through first-hand experience with peer review and to enrich and diversify CSR's pool of trained reviewers.

Benefits of ECR

Qualifications for ECR

Apply to ECR

ECR Training

ECR Webinars

Also –

Contact your *NIH Program Official* and let them know you are interested in serving



Further Implementation of NSPM-33 and the CHIPS & Science Act

- Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support - January 25, 2026.
 - Common Forms require use of Digital Persistent Identifier (ORCID)
- Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP) certification - January 25, 2026.
- Research Security Training (RST) and certification - May 26, 2026.

U.S. Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research

- Identifies two broad categories of life sciences posing the highest risk:

- Dangerous gain-of-function research (DGOF)
- International research of concern (IROC)

- Prohibits any federal support for DGOF research as well as research conducted in or involving countries/entities/individuals of concern.
- Establishes a comprehensive, risk-based oversight framework for all other life sciences research, including new restrictions for international research in countries lacking adequate oversight.
- Implementation guidance forthcoming.

United States Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research

July 20, 2026

I. PURPOSE

Life sciences research is necessary to ensure the United States maintains global leadership in biotechnology, biosecurity, and health and agricultural research, as well as readiness against biological threats. However, there are clear cases in which the potential benefits of life sciences research do not outweigh the potential risks, and such research should not be undertaken domestically or abroad in any circumstance. This United States Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research (hereafter referred to as the Policy) defines areas of life sciences research posing the greatest risk to our Nation's security, implements federal funding prohibitions, and establishes a robust framework for addressing risk and ensuring compliance.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-101.html>

What Else Should You be Aware of...?



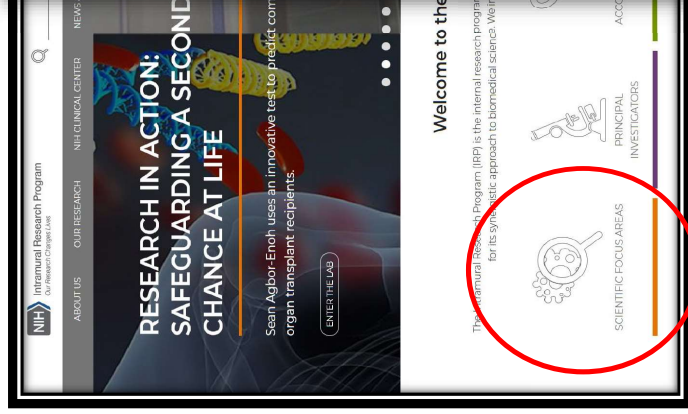
Research grants are to ORGANIZATIONS, not individuals – do you have organizational support?

- Accepting the grant means you agree to all grant terms, including:
 - Disclosure of ALL other funding
 - Research findings will be made public (after you file patents, if applicable)
 - Free and open sharing of research samples
 - Financial auditing, if applicable
 - Annual reporting of progress
- **Funding is in U.S. dollars – currency fluctuations may impact funds**

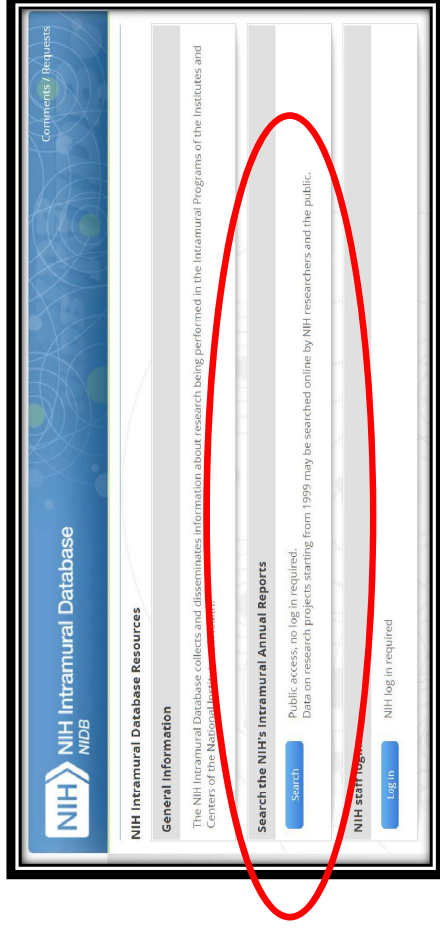
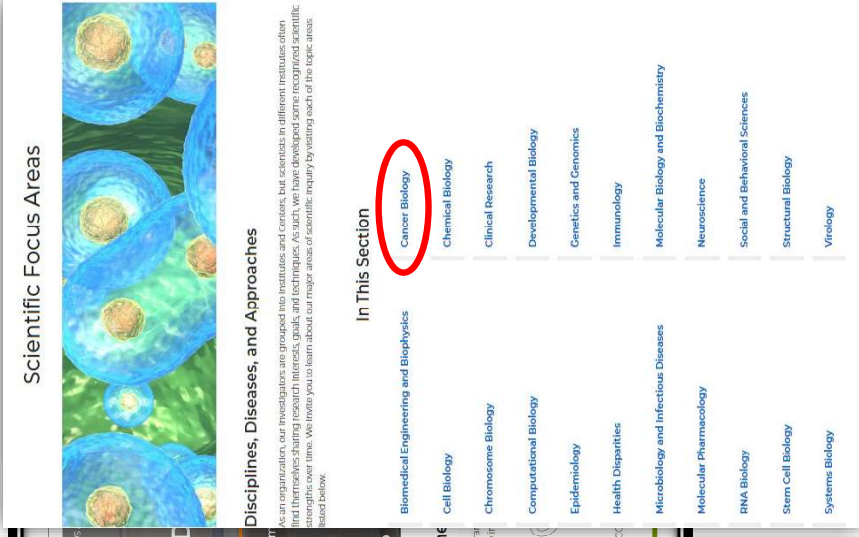


<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/nihgps/index.htm>

Interested in Collaborating with NIH Intramural Researchers?



<https://irp.nih.gov/>

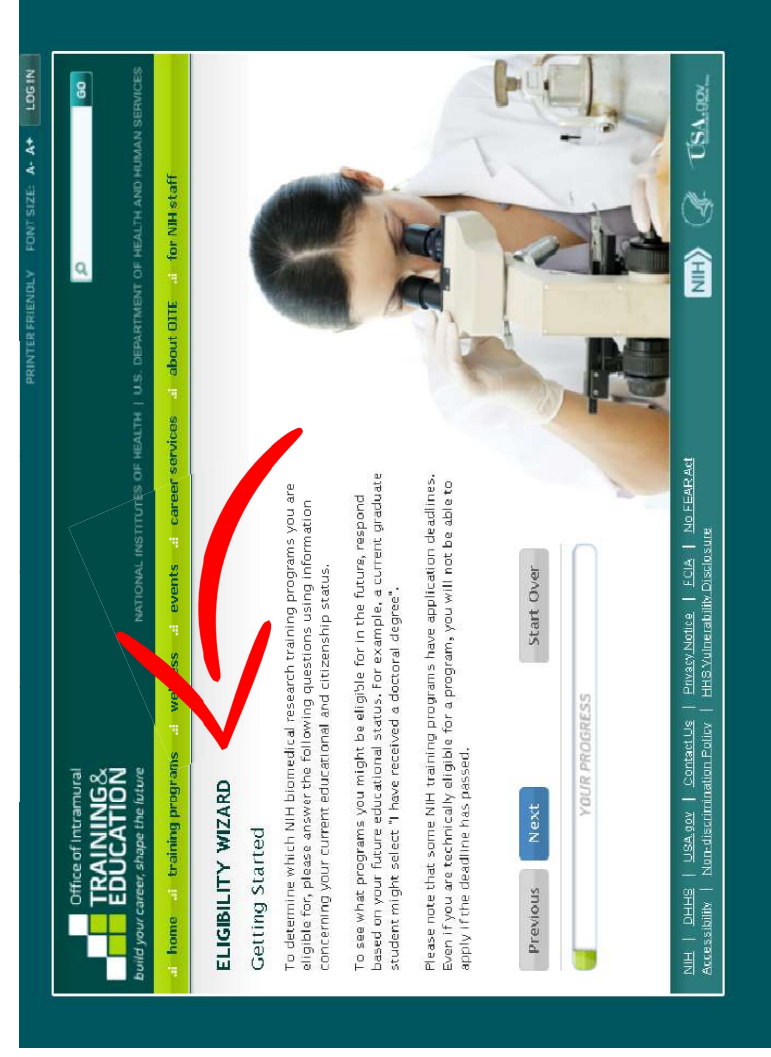


<https://intramural.nih.gov/index.taf>

NIH does not provide funding for this!

Interested in Training in NIH Intramural Labs?

<https://www.training.nih.gov/>



Office of Intramural
TRAINING & EDUCATION
build your career, shape the future

home training programs wellness events career services about DITE for NIH staff

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PRINTER FRIENDLY FONT SIZE: A- A+ LOGIN

ELIGIBILITY WIZARD

Getting Started

To determine which NIH biomedical research training programs you are eligible for, please answer the following questions using information concerning your current educational and citizenship status.

To see what programs you might be eligible for in the future, respond based on your future educational status. For example, a current graduate student might select "I have received a doctoral degree".

Please note that some NIH training programs have application deadlines. Even if you are technically eligible for a program, you will not be able to apply if the deadline has passed.

Previous Next Start Over

YOUR PROGRESS

NIH | DHHS | USA.gov | Contact Us | Privacy Notice | E.O. 13526 | No Fear Act Accessibility | Non-discrimination Policy | HHS Vulnerability Disclosure

NIH USA.gov



**Not all training opportunities
are open to non-U.S. researchers!**

NCURA Global Initiatives

Five quick kits for funding opportunities, network, and scale-up.

The story is not “where is the funding?” It is- connect with your community and multiply and scale up. Turn professional exchange into practical institutional change for safer, stronger international research collaboration.

DC

CLAIRE CHEN, chen@ncura.edu

LOUIS MARTIN-VEZIAN, martinvezian@ncura.edu

BERLIN

JAN BRUEGMANN, brugmannjc@ncura.edu

1 International collaboration mechanism

2 Horizon Europe and US Participation

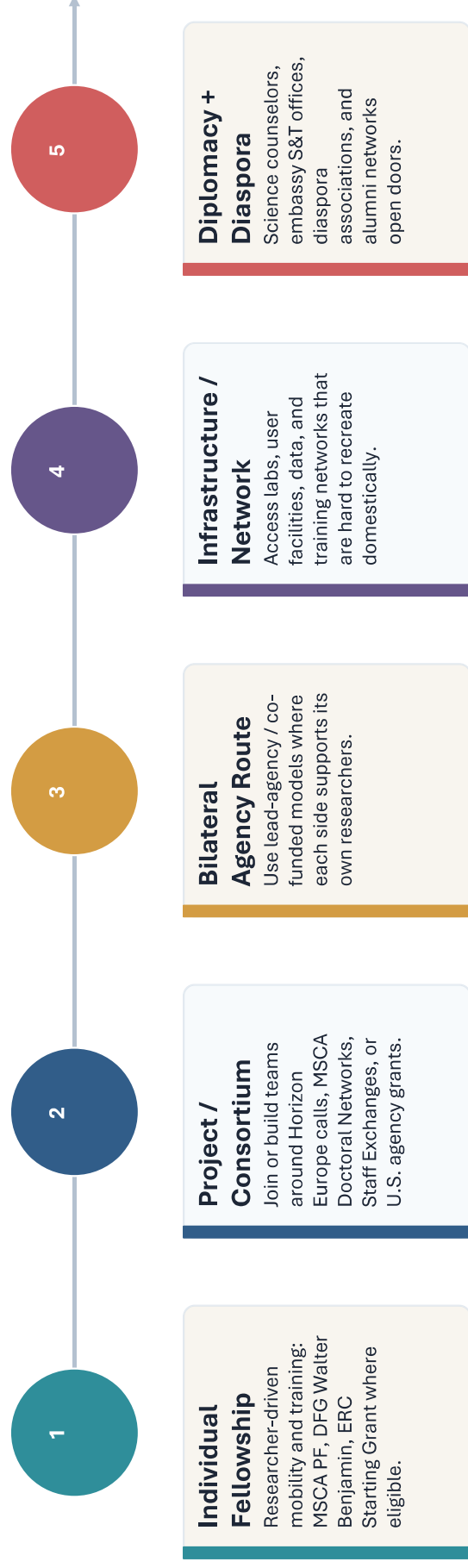
3 MSCA Fellowship

4 Science Diplomacy

5 Resources

International funding mechanisms: think in pathways

Early career researchers rarely enter global funding through one door; the strategy is to match career stage, mobility, topic, and partnership model.



Other International Funding Mechanism

Lead-agency / joint review

One agency leads review; partner agencies use the review to make coordinated decisions. Useful for integrated bilateral teams.

BARI / DoD basic research

Bilateral Academic Research Initiative supports high-risk, high-reward fundamental research with international academic partners.

DFG + national agencies

DFG mechanisms include fellowships and collaboration calls; NSF-DFG activities exist in selected topic areas.

Other science agencies

NIH, NSF, DOE, NASA, ONR Global, AFOSR and foreign agencies often offer topic-specific routes.

Why embassies and diaspora networks matter

They can translate priorities, identify credible hosts, convene ministries and agencies, and connect early career researchers to alumni or national research communities before a proposal exists.

“What relationship do I need before I need the funding?”

Over €16 billion (USD \$18.8 billion) – 17% of whole budget

ERC grant schemes

USD \$1.7 million
 ≥ 50% of PI time in EU MS / HE AC
 ≥ 50% time on project



Starting Grants

Researchers (0-10 years after PhD)
 up to €1.5 million for 5 years

\$2.3 million

≥ 50% time in Europe
 ≥ 40% time on project



Consolidator Grants

Researchers (5-15 years after PhD)
 up to €2 million for 5 years

\$2.8 million
 ≥ 50% time in Europe
 ≥ 30% time on project



Advanced Grants

Researchers with track-record of significant
 research achievements up to €2.5 million for 5 years



Proof of Concept \$176,000

bridging gap between research
 - earliest stage of marketable innovation
 lump sum €150,000 for ERC grantees



\$11.3 million

≥ 30% time on project

Synergy Grants

2-4 Principal investigators
 up to €10 million for 6 years
 1 PI can be based outside
 EU/Associated Countries

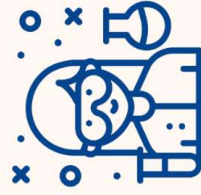


Plus Grants

Principal investigators at all career stages with a
 vision for transformative research
 up to €7 million over 4-7 years

Proposals are evaluated on the **sole**
criterion of scientific excellence

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships



One postdoctoral
researcher



Host Institution(s)

For **European Fellowships**:

1 Beneficiary from EU MS or HE AC

For **Global Fellowships**:

1 Beneficiary + 1 Third Country Associated
Partner



Supervisor

in each institution

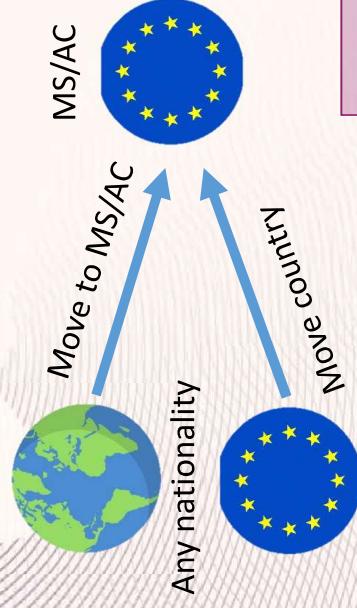


European
Commission

Two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

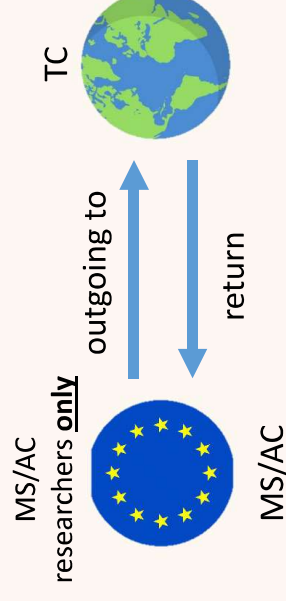
European Fellowships

(12-24 months)



Global Fellowships

(12-24 months in Third Country) + (12 months compulsory return phase)



+ Optional 6 months non-academic placement in Europe



European
Commission

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Who can apply?



Postdoctoral researcher

- Have obtained a PhD at the date of the call deadline
- No age restriction
- Maximum 8 years (full-time) research experience since PhD award

Any Nationality



- Except for Global Fellowships: the researcher must be a national or long-term resident (5 years) of an EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country

Mobility rule



- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the beneficiary (for European Fellowships) or associated partner (for Global Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

Resubmission

- Restrict resubmissions with score less than 70% to the following year



EU contribution (in base-level euro)

1 unit
= 1 person/month

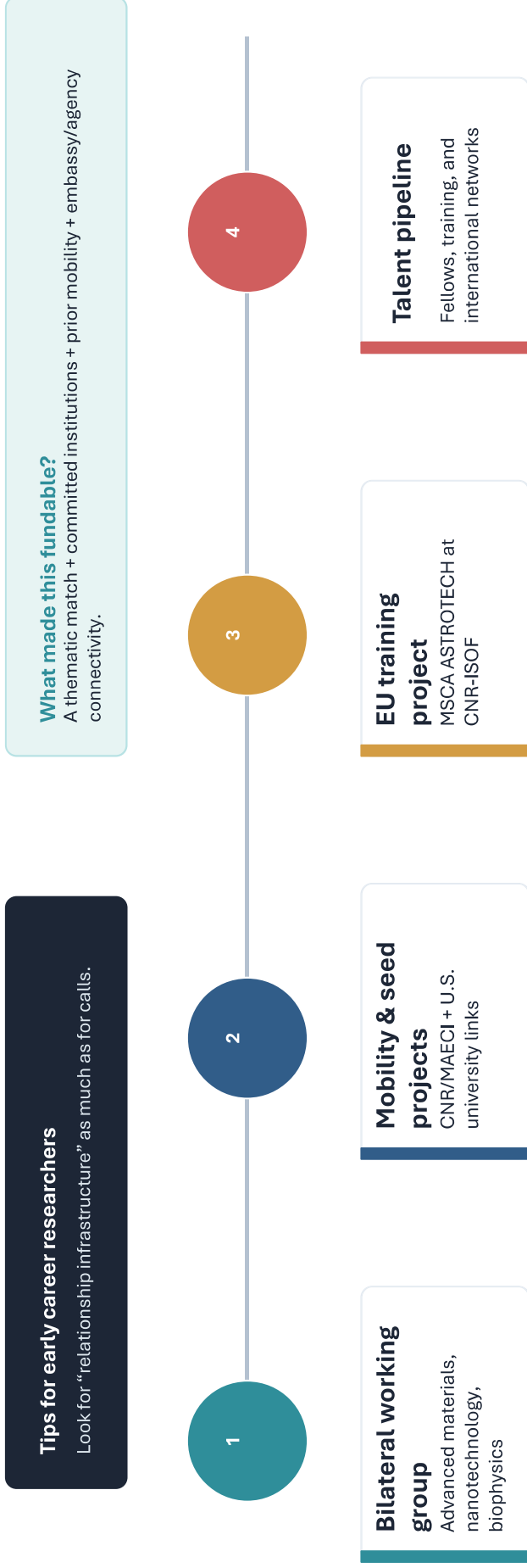


Researcher unit cost	Institutional unit cost	
"top-up allowance"	Research, training and networking	Management and indirect costs
6,350 € (living allowance)*	1,000 €	650 €
710 € (mobility allowance)		
660 € (family allowance)**		

* adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient

**if applicable, as well as long term leave allowance or special needs allowance

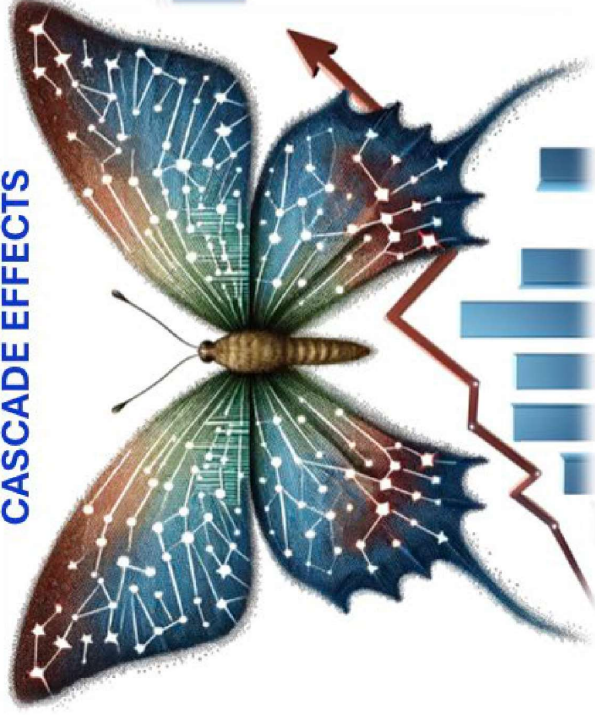
Case example: ASTROTECH shows how training projects grow from partnerships



Sources: CNR/PCB note on Italy-U.S. S&T cooperation and MSCA ASTROTECH; CNR staff/fellow profiles.

Funding attractiveness and leveraging

CASCADE EFFECTS



From 50K \$ to 12 MLN \$ in 10 years



1. AFOSR ASTROSENSE
2. ARO ASTROCLUSTER
3. AFOSR ICARUS
4. AFOSR ASTROTALK
5. AFOSR ASTRO-COLL
6. ARO ASTRO-GOLD,
7. AFOSR ASTROLIGHT
8. AFOSR ASTRODYN
9. AFOSR ASTRONIR



International Research Training Groups – Examples

RWTH Aachen University

Supported by DFG

University of Pennsylvania

Supported by U.S. funding source(s)

- GRK 1328 Brain-behaviour Relationship of Normal and Disturbed Emotions in Schizophrenia and Autism, **2006 - 2015**
- GRK 2150 The Neuroscience of Modulating Aggression and Impulsivity in Psychopathology, **2016 - 2025**



Source: DFG

Science Diplomacy

Converting high-level science-policy objectives into research collaboration, cohorts, institutional partnership.



- 1**

Align priorities
 Translate embassy, ministry, funder, university, and U.S. policy goals into one coherent program logic.
- 2**

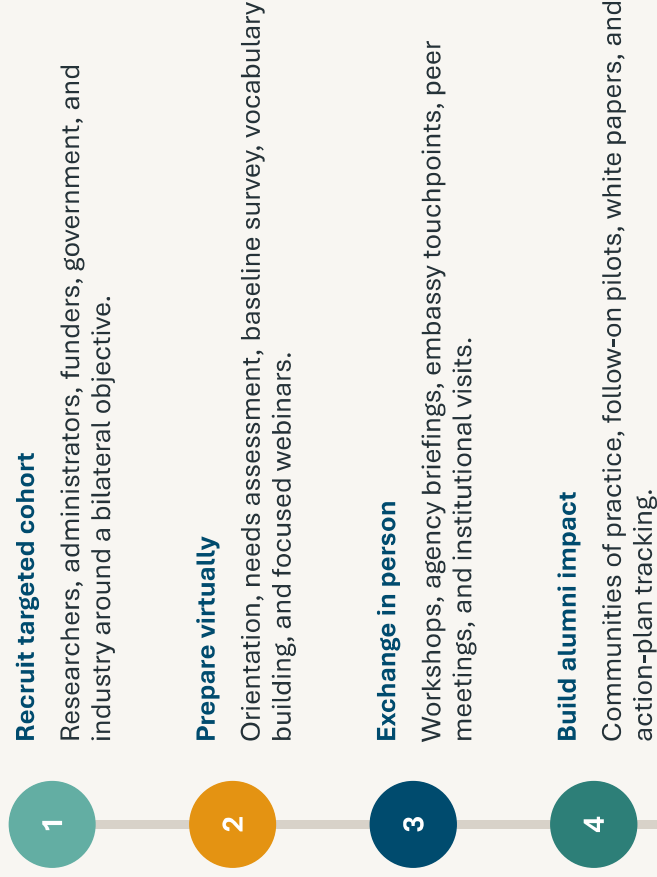
Convene decision makers
 Bring together embassies, ministries, national funders, university leaders, and U.S. science agencies.
- 3**

Operationalize policy
 Convert foreign policy, sponsor rules, and research security expectations into practical university workflows.
- 4**

Sustain channels
 Use roadmaps, alumni networks, follow-on exchanges, and recurring contact to preserve the partnership.

Community Building

select the right people, prepare them virtually, expose them to mature systems, then convert learning into institutional action.



IDENTIFYING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HOW DO I FIND THEM?



- NIH/NSF/DOD etc.
- Private Foundations
- Associations
- Professional Orgs

- PIVOT
- Spin
- Pure Funding Discovery
- GrantsWire
- Foundation Directory Online



Direct
Source
Material

Paid
Subscriptions

**SPIN Funding
Opportunities**

Federal
Sources-
bulletins

Unpaid
Subscriptions

The World's #1 Funding Opportunities
Database

- Grants.Gov
- Federal Register
- CFDA
- FEDBIZOPPS.Gov

- Digests
- Academic Listservs, e.g., RESADML
- Euraxess



EU VS. US TERMINOLOGY

EU Term	US Term
Overhead / Indirect Costs	F&A (facilities & administrative costs)
Eligible Costs	Allowable Costs
In-kind contribution / co-financing	Cost Sharing
Receipts	Program Income
Call Publication	Funding Opportunity Announcement
Coordinator	Prime / Pass-Through Entity (PTE)
Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) Legal Signatory (LSIGN)	Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)
Social Security Costs	Fringe Benefits



EURAXESS Contact Information

EURAXESS North America
NorthAmerica@euraxess.net

Jackson Howard
Dr. Derya Büyüktanır Karacan
Regional Coordinators

[Flashnote sign-up](#)



Facebook: EURAXESS North America



YouTube: EURAXESS North America



X/Twitter: @EURAXESS_NA



LinkedIn: EURAXESS North America