NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) UPDATE

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently made changes that are listed in the Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 19-1). The link to these changes can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf19001&org=NSF. Here are the important highlights:

RESEARCH.GOV PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will now allow the use of Research.gov for research proposals Preparation and Submission. The goals of this system are to provide a modernized, intuitive environment for proposal preparation and submission, reduce administrative burden via real-time compliance checking; provide online help tips and notes; and incorporate a proposal wizard that walks users through the proposal setup process. Only full, research, non-collaborative proposal functionality is currently enabled.

RESUBMISSION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has clarified its policy on resubmissions. A declined proposal may be resubmitted, but only after it has undergone substantial revision. NSF programs that accept proposals at any time may have established guidelines in which a declined proposal (or reasonable facsimile of that proposal/topic by the same PI, and co-PIs, where applicable) is ineligible for resubmission for a specified period of time. This moratorium allows PIs/co-PIs sufficient time to digest the results of the merit review and revise/restructure the declined proposal accordingly. Please note that a proposal that the program considers too similar to a previous proposal that is under the moratorium period may be returned without review. A resubmitted proposal that has not clearly taken into account the major comments or concerns resulting from the prior NSF review may also be returned without review. NSF will treat the revised proposal as a new proposal, subject to the standard review procedures.

ALERT

WHY THIS ALERT?

This publication has been created to serve the purpose of informing researchers of new information, trends and concerns as they occur.

HARASSMENT POLICY

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released new guidance regarding Harassment. NSF will not tolerate sexual harassment, or other forms of harrassment or sexual assault within the agency, at awardee organizations, field sites, or anywhere NSF-funded science and education is conducted.

The new policy which went into effect on October 21, 2018, requires awardee organizations to notify NSF of any findings/determinations of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault regarding an NSF funded PI or co-PI.

The policy will require the awardee to notify NSF if the PI or co-PI is placed on administrative leave or if the awardee has imposed any administrative action on the PI or any co-PI relating to any finding/determination or an investigation of an alleged violation of awardee policies or codes of conduct, statutes, regulations, or executive orders relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

NSF has provided new clarification about synergistic activities. A proposal should include a list of up to five distinct examples that demonstrate the broader impact of the individual's professional and scholarly activities that focuses on the integration and transfer of knowledge as well as its creation. Examples should be specific and can include, among others: innovations in teaching and training (e.g., development of curricular materials and pedagogical methods); contributions to the science of learning; development and/or refinement of research tools; computation methodologies and algorithms for problem solving; development of databases to support research and education; broadening the participation of groups underrepresented in STEM; and service to the scientific and engineering community outside of the individual's immediate organization.

Remember

For additional questions, please feel free to contact us at
(212) 772-4020 for more information.