

Funding Support for Graduate Students and Post-Doctorates

Tracy E. Schmidt, PhD

Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Health Sciences

Susan Lewis, PhD

Associate Director, Research Development, Office of the Vice Provost for Research

1

Keys to Finding Funding Opportunities



Funding Agencies

whose priorities and interests are a good fit for your research



Funding Databases

to find open and available opportunities



Keywords

to help uncover connections between your work and applicable funding opportunities



Mission

Understanding your research and/or career mission to help you find the best 'fit' for your work

2

Government Funders & Highlighted Opportunities

- **National Institutes of Health**
 - 27 institutes and centers with individual funding priorities.
 - [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease](#)
 - [Individual Fellowship \(F\) Grants](#)
 - F30,31. For doctoral candidates
 - F32 fellowships for early stage postdoctoral research
 - Career Development (K) Awards: [NIAID](#) overview; [NIH](#) overview
- **National Science Foundation**
 - 7 Directorates, each with their own divisions – [research areas list](#)
 - [Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#)
 - Early-stage graduate students (generally first or second year); citizens and permanent residents
 - [Scholar Development](#) provides some GRFP advising
 - [Funding for Postdoctoral Fellows](#) (Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology)
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
 - Fulbright-Fogarty Fellows in Public Health: supports fellows to promote the expansion of public health research in resource-limited settings.
- **Department of Defense (CDMRP)**
- **Infectious Diseases Society of America (ISDA)**
 - <https://www.idsociety.org/research/research--funding-opportunities/students/>

3

Private Funders & Highlighted Opportunities

- **Types of private foundations** that fund research and related activities (travel, professional development)
 - Disease foundations
 - [Infectious Diseases Society of America Foundation](#) - initiatives and awards for all levels for those in ID
 - Family foundations
 - [Helen Hay Whitney Foundation](#) - Research Fellowship for early postdoctoral training in all biomedical sciences
 - Professional societies
 - [American Society for Microbiology](#) - Travel grants and other opportunities for graduate students and post doctorates
 - General foundations
 - [Life Sciences Research Foundation](#) – postdoctoral fellowship in all biomedical sciences
 - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center - [Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award](#) – all biomedical sciences
 - [Burroughs Wellcome Fund](#) – several awards for postdoctoral scientists
 - HHMI [Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study](#) and [Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program](#)
 - [Ford Foundation](#) – predoctoral, dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships
- **Corporate, Corporate Foundations and Charities**
 - [L'Oréal USA For Women in Science Fellowship program](#) – Fellowships for women post doctorates in STEM fields
 - [Thermo Fisher Scientific Antibody Scholarship Program](#) - Scholarship funding to graduate students

4



Where to Find Funding Opportunities

- Colleagues
- Journal articles
- [Google Advanced Search](#)
 - Filter results for more targeted and less overwhelming results
 - Sort using Boolean operators, using or excluding keywords, and by date and region
 - Pro - has everything, Con - has everything
- Twitter (Yes, really)
 - Follow the funding agencies that fund work similar to yours
 - Check regularly – also a useful place to hear about work that has been funded
- Funding Databases
 - Gives a wider view of available opportunities
 - Many allow you to stay informed through weekly email updates of opportunities
 - Search targeted to your specific interests and research activities
 - A great way to find the types of agencies and foundations that fund your research

5

Funding Databases – External to Tufts

[Grants.gov](#) - Comprehensive list of federal funding opportunities

[NIH Grants and Funding](#) - searchable listing for all NIH research and training funding opportunities

[Trialect](#) - searchable listings for biomedical and healthcare fellowships, grants and mentorships

[UCLA Graduate and Postdoctoral Extramural Support \(GRAPES\)](#) – Free searchable database specific for graduate students and post doctorates

[Duke Research Funding Database](#) - searchable database for all funding types

[Johns Hopkins Funding Opportunities](#) – continuously updated repository of federal and private funding opportunities for graduate students and post doctorates

[Stanford Fellowship Funding](#) – searchable database of biomedical-related funding opportunities for graduate students and post doctorates

6

Tufts Resources

[ProQuest PIVOT](#)

One of the largest and most comprehensive subscription databases, PIVOT' searchable listings include all funding types (research, training, dissertation, fellowship, etc) and for all eligible types. A note: since it requires payment from agencies/groups to be included, smaller highly-focused foundations may choose not to participate.

[CFR Database](#)

Tufts CFR developed a searchable private funding database for future and current Tufts community members. Search curated list of funding by sponsor, program, keyword or deadline.

[Hirsch Library's Finding Funding page](#)

Provides links to a select set of database, foundation, and federal funding links.

7



Identifying Key Words

- Challenges
 - Search is too broad
 - Search is too narrow
- Identify appropriate key words based on results
 - If the results don't apply to your work, think broadly about your key words
- Troubleshooting
 - Multiple iterations of keywords, identify words that should be excluded
 - Network: talk to librarians, colleagues and program officers
 - Reach out to Tufts Hirsch librarians for help with keyword refining through [email](#) or website [chat feature](#) and read their [funding guide](#)
 - New opportunities are posted often – keep checking!

8

What to Consider When You Find an Opportunity


- Mission alignment
 - Funding agency
 - Own career goals
- Objectives of the award mechanism
- Eligibility
 - Limited Submission
 - Restrictions (Geographical, citizenship/visa, etc)
- Previously funded proposals
- Award criteria and review process
- Due dates and timeline
 - Materials needed from other people (Recommendation letters, mentor statements, etc.)
- Read instructions and follow the guidelines
 - 60% of proposals are rejected because are incomplete/didn't follow directions
 - Observe word, page limits and formatting requirements
 - Answer questions and place content in the order they were asked

9

Resources for Graduate Students and Post Doctorates

- Tufts Workshops
 - [Page One Workshop for Post Docs](#)
 - 3 Thursdays: Feb. 11, 18, 25, 2021
 - Grant Writing Workshop for Graduate Students – Summer 2021
 - GSBS NIH F-Award Workshop for Graduate Students
- Tufts Writing service – [Academic Resources Center](#)
- [Tufts GSBS Fellowship site](#)
- [Northwestern CLIMB](#) – writing
- Postdocs' [Guide to Gaining Independence](#) (NIAID)

10



Questions?

- Tracy.Schmidt@tufts.edu
- Susan.Lewis@tufts.edu