Translational Research Institute for Space Health
Postdoctoral Fellowship Research Announcement TRISH-RFA-2001-PD

Frequently Asked Questions

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Process Questions

Q17 May I travel to China to attend conferences?
A17: Public Law 112-55 states that NASA [and TRISH] may not engage in any bilateral activities with China or Chinese-owned companies. However, TRISH employees, contractors, and grant recipients are permitted to attend some multilateral, widely-attended conferences such the 2012 International Astronomical Union (IAU) General Assembly held in Beijing. Work that involves investigators affiliated with institutions in other countries in addition to the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and USA and/or work done under the auspices of a multilateral organization is generally permitted. For example, posting content to a publicly accessible web page content does not constitute a bilateral activity. Chinese institutions will continue to have access to TRISH public data, data products, publications etc., and TRISH funded investigators can use publicly available data from China.

Q16: May I use Chinese data (e.g., from ground stations) to perform scientific research?
A16: Yes, if the data is publicly available. Because of the restrictions on bilateral activities with China, TRISH-sponsored researchers are not allowed to enter into any agreement with Chinese organizations to obtain access to data (e.g., a TRISH researcher may not sign or orally agree to any contract or agreement). If access can be obtained without such agreement, or through the data archives of multilateral groups which include China as a member then the activity is permitted.

Q15: If I conduct National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and/or with scientists affiliated with a PRC institution, am I barred from getting a TRISH grant?
A15: The restriction only applies to TRISH funds. It is acceptable as long as you keep your TRISH projects and your PRC related projects separate, i.e., do not use any TRISH funds for projects with the PRC and don't involve any scientists affiliated with an institution in the PRC in your TRISH projects.
**Q14:** Are prospective postdoctoral fellows from China located at United States (U.S.) institutions eligible to apply?

**A14:** Yes, postdoctoral fellows located at U.S. institutions are eligible to apply for the TRISH Postdoctoral Fellowship. The statute does not restrict individual involvement based on citizenship or nationality. Rather, individuals are subject to the restriction if they are affiliated with institutions of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) or Chinese-owned companies incorporated under the laws of China. Thus, a team member who is a Chinese citizen may work on a NASA project, but an individual affiliated with an institution of the Chinese state will be subject to the statutory restriction.

**Q13:** Should the application contain letters of support from key personnel that will be providing technical advice, or is it sufficient to describe their input as a collaborator within the research plan?

**A13:** Key personnel should be included on the cover page as team members and may signal their involvement through NSPIRES or may provide letters of support in the appendices/reprints section. Keep in mind that funds are to pay for the postdoctoral fellow only and that letters of support may not be used to provide recommendation for the candidate (i.e., may not duplicate the function of letters of recommendation).

**Q12:** Some of my team members do not yet have NSPIRES accounts, what do I do?

**A12:** In order to list your team members on the cover page, they must have NSPIRES accounts. You can complete most of your cover page creation and proposal document upload while the individuals are being registered. If an individual has still not created an account when the proposal needs to be submitted, this person should be named in the Proposal upload and an account should be created as soon as possible. Please contact the NSPIRES help desk, NSPIRES-help@nasaprs.com, for any difficulties during registration.

**Q11:** Is a separate registration required for the organization itself which includes a designation of the person who will act as the organization’s electronic business point-of-contact (EBPOC)?

**A11:** As explained during the organization registration steps: “Such registration must be performed by an organization’s electronic business point-of-contact (EBPOC) identified in the Federal Government’s System for Award Management (SAM; https://www.sam.gov)”. Note that registration in SAM may take several weeks for new organizations and is required for registering an organization in NSPIRES.” The organization must be registered with NSPIRES for a principal investigator to be able to affiliate with it. Please contact the NSPIRES help desk (NSPIRES-help@nasaprs.com) or read the NSPIRES tutorials for additional information.

**Q10:** Can I request an extension for submitting my proposal?

**A10:** Individual extensions will not be given. It is strongly suggested that you begin your proposal preparation early, familiarize yourself with the solicitation and the proposer’s guidebook, and ensure that your authorized organization representative (AOR) is registered with NSPIRES and will be available to submit your proposal by the deadline.
Q9: How can I verify that my proposal has been submitted?
A9: Once a proposal has been submitted, it no longer appears on the “Current proposals/NOIs” screen. Select the “Submitted proposals/NOIs” link to the left of the screen. Submitted proposals are displayed here. **It is your responsibility, and not TRISH’s, to verify that your proposal has been officially submitted by the proposal due date.**

Q8: What do the various “proposal status” types in NSPIRES mean?
A8: There are six different proposal status types:
- **Pending** is a proposal cover page that is in process, but not yet linked to an organization. Only the principal investigator (PI) (and any team member who has been granted privileges) can edit the cover page or upload documents in this status.
- **Linked** is a proposal cover page that is in process, and linked to the organization that is going to submit it. Once a proposal is linked, appropriately privileged personnel in the office who will be submitting the proposal (typically the AOR) will have access to the proposal and can, if necessary, lock the proposal.
- A **locked** proposal cannot be edited. A proposal becomes locked when the PI clicks the “Release to Org” button. A proposal can also be locked by the AOR, who can also unlock a proposal if further editing by the PI is needed.
- A **rejected** proposal is returned by the organization to the PI. It can be edited by the PI and re-released to the organization.
- A **submitted** proposal has been submitted to NSPIRES by the AOR. Submitted proposals no longer appear on the “Active Proposals/NOIs” page of a PI’s proposals page. Submitted proposals are shown on the “Submitted Proposals/NOIs” page.
- A **withdrawn** proposal is pulled back from NSPIRES by the organization. If this is done prior to the proposal due date, the proposal could be re-submitted (it will be given a new proposal number). After the proposal due date, the proposal cannot be re-submitted.

Q7: I receive “checks” that I am missing proposal components when I submit my proposal. What does this mean?
A7: As a courtesy, the NSPIRES system performs a “check” of the proposal components upon submission. NSPIRES is used by multiple programs for proposal submission and only the components outlined in this solicitation are required for compliance. Checks referring to proposal components not mentioned in the solicitation or requesting proposal components be uploaded separately (such as budget justification) can be ignored. A completed proposal cover page elements and single PDF proposal document as outlined in the solicitation are the only required components for this solicitation.

Q6: I have started the proposal creation/submission process. How do I find what I started and see where it is in the process?
A6: In order to see proposals that you have in process, login to your account and select the “Proposals” link. Below the Active Proposals heading is a list of all proposals that you have started to create as a principal investigator (PI) or on which you have been identified as a team member, but which have not yet been submitted. The title of the proposal is a
link that will take you to the screen that allows you to edit the various components (note that if you are a team member, you may or may not have editing privileges, depending on if the PI granted them to you or not). The organization to which you have linked your proposal (if any) is shown, as is the PI name, the proposal due date, and the proposal status (see below).

Q5: Can a foreign citizen who is part of the faculty of a United States (U.S.) institution propose to the call for proposals?
A5: Yes. The eligibility requirements of the solicitation apply to the proposing organization and not the individual.

Q4: Can one principal investigator submit more than one proposal?
A4: Yes, there is no limit to the number of proposals that a single individual (i.e., either a single prospective postdoctoral fellow or a single prospective mentor) or institution may submit.

Q3: Is there a limit to the number of applications that a single institution can propose?
A3: There is no limit to the number of applications from any organization.

Q2: My potential mentors already have a postdoctoral fellow being funded through TRISH. Would TRISH actively fund two students in the same laboratory?
A2: This situation is allowed as long as the projects scopes do not overlap, and the laboratory/institution is diligent about keeping project records and costs separate.

Q1: I cannot find the answers to my questions in the solicitation documents, the guidebook, or this FAQ. Who can I ask for assistance?
A1: Please ensure that you read both the TRISH Postdoctoral Fellowship Request for Applications (TRISH-RFA-2001-PD), and this FAQ in their entirety before contacting TRISH with questions.
For NSPIRES-related questions and the online preparation and submission of your proposals, e-mail nspires-help@nasaprs.com or by telephone to (202) 479-9376 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time. There is also a Proposal Online Help site at http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/help.do. Tutorials for NSPIRES are available at http://nspires.nasaprs.com/tutorials/index.html.
Additional technical information and contact information can be found in both solicitation research appendices. Please reference the solicitation documents. You may contact Dr. Kristin Fabre (SpaceHealth-Info@bcm.edu), TRISH Senior Innovation Scientist, for programmatic questions.

TRI FAQ-4
**Award Questions**

**Q5:** How much is allowed for health insurance?  
**A5:** The set allocation for health insurance and conference travel is $15,000. Costs for health insurance, the mandatory travel to the annual NASA HRP Investigators’ Workshop, and any other travel cannot exceed this amount. The proposer should work together with his/her institution to allocate the $15,000 between health insurance and travel.

**Q4:** When will the funding decisions, regarding proposals, be made?  
**A4:** Announcement of awards will be made in July 2020.

**Q3:** Will TRISH adjust award recipient’s salaries based on location and/or cost of living?  
**A3:** The Translational Research Institute for Space Health will not adjust the salaries stipulated in the solicitation due to location and cost of living expenses. It is the responsibility of the award recipient’s institution to augment salaries and/or benefits in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

**Q2:** If the postdoctoral stipend is in excess of the allotted amount AND we wish to make up the difference, is that difference considered cost sharing or is cost sharing only allowed on allowable costs?  
**A2:** The excess in stipend can be considered cost sharing. Although cost sharing is not mandatory for the TRISH Postdoctoral Fellowship program, it is welcomed.

**Q1:** What is covered under cost sharing?  
**A1:** Cost sharing examples:
  - Salaries & benefits
  - Value of additional % effort contributed by Principal Investigator
  - Equipment purchases
  - Supplies
  - Travel
  - Tuition fees
  - Indirect costs
  - Value of volunteer services towards the project