Grant Review and Support Program (GRASP)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Brief description of course: The Grant Review and Support Program (GRASP) is a multi-year program that guides junior investigators who have already obtained NIH K grants to understand the grant writing process, gain new skills, and write competitive grant applications to ultimately achieve research independence. GRASP begins with an orientation workshop that provides participants with advice in grant writing, diversifying their funding portfolio, as well as training in using the resources of the Elements of Grant Writing. Participants will then receive ongoing grant preparation support and guidance from the GRASP team throughout the duration of their K awards. Armed with the knowledge and tools provided by GRASP, participants will be better prepared to establish independent research careers, funded by a variety of different grants.

Who is the target audience?: The target audience is investigators in the first year of their NIH career development awards, specifically K23, K08, K07, K01, or K25, who are seeking an R01 grant.

Date applications are due for applicants: 03/10/2016 at 5pm
Endorsements Due: 03/17/2016 at 5pm
Date by which will be notified: 03/21/2016

Selection process and criteria:

1. Accepted applicants of GRASP must commit to the following:
   o Attend the orientation and grant-writing workshop.
     This comprehensive workshop features a presentation of R01-specific grant-writing techniques, grant reviews, an overview of the Elements of Grant Writing resources and an introduction to non-NIH funding sources.
     ▪ Note: participants will be required to complete assignments prior to the workshop, as well as an assignment taking 2-3 hours following day one of the workshop.
     ▪ Note: participants will be required to purchase a $75 workbook.
     ▪ Workshop will take place April 26-28, 2016, at the Sheraton Commander Hotel, 16 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA.
   o Use the Elements of Grant Writing tools and resources, throughout the duration of their K award.
     All participants will learn how to customize and use the work plans featured on this website. Following the workshop, they must submit monthly progress reports to their scientific mentor(s) and the GRASP team.
   o Participate in workshop modules, including specific aims drafts critiques.
2. All applicants must receive an endorsement from their primary mentor(s) and division chief or department chair that the applicant will participate in this long-term offering.
3. All applicants must be within the first support year of their K23, K08, K01, K07, or K25 at the time of the GRASP workshop.

Harvard Catalyst’s Education Program offers first priority to applicants who are current Harvard students, faculty, or current employees of Harvard University, its ten schools, and its seventeen Academic Healthcare Centers (AHC), or that of Boston College School of Nursing, MIT, or Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. A complete list of participating institutions can be found on the Harvard Catalyst website: http://catalyst.harvard.edu/about/.

The next level of priority is awarded to members of the national Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium. A complete list of participating institutions (CTSCs) can be found on the CTSA website: https://www.ctsacentral.org/institutions

Applicants who are external to the groups listed above are accepted for a fee when space is available.

The expectation is that by accepting a seat in one of the Education Program courses, the participant is agreeing to attend the entirety of the course. As part of the application process, a supervisor’s endorsement for course attendance, granting the applicant permission to be away from the lab or clinical duties for the duration of the course, will be automatically generated. If a participant must be absent for any portion of the course, it is the participant's responsibility to notify course coordinators, since attendance is taken at all sessions. If the participant cannot be reached, the coordinators will then be obliged to notify the endorsing supervisor of the unexplained absence. Since the Education Program courses are expensive to produce, but are offered to Harvard and CTSC affiliates free-of-charge, including meals and Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, the only obligation of participants is fully to attend and participate.

Please also note that participants seeking CME credits must attend all course sessions and complete each daily evaluation. No partial CME credits are offered.

If you have any questions about the course or information above, please don’t hesitate to ask. The course coordinators can be reached at GRASP@catalyst.harvard.edu.