

How to Apply for the Systems Physiology Training Grant (STG)

[Revised 29 April 2008]

I. Eligibility

NIH policy restricts eligibility to:

- PhD candidates in good standing
- US citizens or US residents (green card)
- Students with less than 3 years previous appointment as a trainee
- Students without a prior STG appointment and current trainees

II. Application overview

- Item 1. Letter of intent (due May 15, 2008)
- Item 2. Research plan (due June 1, 2008)
- Item 3. Oral presentation (second week of June)

Candidates that meet the eligibility requirements and have a strong academic record will be asked to submit a research plan (Item 2) and to prepare an oral presentation (Item 3). Such candidates will be notified within one week of submitting a letter of intent.

III. Instructions

Item 1: Letter of intent

Please submit the following in a single Word document to Peg Morrow.

- a. Personal information
 - Name of student
 - Department
 - Name of advisor
 - Year of admission to the PhD program
 - Current and pending support
- b. Academic record*
 - Grades
 - GRE scores with percentiles
 - Publications
- c. Preliminary proposal
 - Project Title
 - Summary of proposed research (250 words or less).

*Provide your most recent GRE scores and your grades in the Neuroscience Core Course, Statistics (if taken), and other courses relevant to your research, if any. GRE scores are weighted less heavily as the research record accumulates. Please also provide a list of publications including papers and abstracts; do not include papers in preparation. Use the following terms to describe your publications: "published," "in revision," or "submitted." For abstracts, provide conference name or equivalent.

Item 2: Research Plan

Do not exceed three pages. Figures ARE included in the page limit and they must be integrated with the text. Use single-spaced, 11 pt Arial font. There are no margin restrictions, but ensure that your document can be read easily. Submit four hard copies of your research plan to Peg Morrow.

The research plan must contain the following two sections:

A. Background and Significance

Sketch the background leading to the proposed research, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and identify the gaps the project is intended to fill. Describe the significance and broader impacts of the research.

B. Specific Aims and Research Design

List the specific aims of your research, e.g., state the hypotheses you will test, the problems you will solve, or the questions you will answer. For each aim, provide a brief description of the experimental approach, expected results, and how the results will be interpreted in light of the hypothesis, problem, or question. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations.

In preparing your proposal, you are encouraged to seek the assistance of others, including your thesis advisor. Proposals that are carefully proof-read generally fare better than ones that are not.

Item 3: Oral presentation

Prepare a summary of your proposal as an oral presentation for the selection committee (3-4 PI's). Plan for a 15 min presentation with a 15 min question period. Questions will be limited to the content of the proposal. You are encouraged to seek the assistance of others, including your thesis advisor, in planning and practicing your presentation.