



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF Research Traineeship (NRT), (NSF 21-536)

Date: May 16, 2024

Dear UNM Researchers,

The **NSF Research Traineeship (NRT)** program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based master's & PhD programs to develop the skills and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The goals of the NRT program are to: 1) Catalyze and advance cutting-edge interdisciplinary or convergent research in high priority areas; 2) Increase the capacity of U.S. graduate programs to produce diverse cohorts of interdisciplinary STEM professionals with technical and transferable professional skills for a range of research and research-related careers within and outside academia; and 3) Develop innovative approaches and knowledge that will promote transformative improvements in graduate education. The program emphasizes broadening participation & institutional capacity-building in graduate education and especially welcomes proposals that include partnership with NSF INCLUDES projects. Collaborations between NRT proposals and existing INCLUDES projects should strengthen both projects.

UNM is only eligible to apply to Track 1 because UNM is an R1 IHE. (Eligibility to apply to Track 2 is limited to non-R1 Institutions of Higher Education.) Track 1 proposals may request a total budget up to \$3 million for projects (up to 5 years) with a focus on STEM graduate students in research-based PhD and/or master's degree programs. More details can be found in the solicitation: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21536/nsf21536.htm>. The deadline for submitting full proposals to the agency is **September 6, 2024**.

This is a limited competition. **UNM may participate in only TWO (2) proposals as lead OR collaborative non-lead.** If you are interested in *submitting a proposal or participating as a sub-awardee on a proposal*, please **follow this required two-step process:**

STEP ONE: By **NOON on June 6, 2024**, please submit a Statement of Interest via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) that contains:

- a) Whether UNM is the lead or subaward;
- b) name(s) and departmental affiliation(s) of the Co-PI(s) and others composing the Core Participants (maximum 10);
- c) names(s) of any other participating institutions;
- d) target disciplines—list up to 5 primary disciplinary areas contributing to the research focus; and
- e) a brief project description of 100 words or less.

This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered.

STEP TWO: Submit a **4-page preliminary proposal** that contains the following components:

- **Theme, Vision, and Goals:** Describe the overarching theme, vision, and goals of the proposed NRT. Identify the potential of the NRT project to provide appreciable and meaningful added value to the current degree programs and methods of graduate training at the UNM and the potential for high impact synergies among the disciplines, specifically highlighting the capacity of the program to broaden participation.
- **Education and Training:** Address training needs that are not currently available at UNM and/or in disciplines. Provide clear and compelling connections between the training elements and the interdisciplinary research theme. Describe the adopted traineeship model and its components, and how they are integrated with NRT research activities. Articulate explicit approaches to provide NRT trainees with professional development training for a range of research and research-related career pathways, *both within and outside academia*.
- **Major Research Efforts:** Briefly describe the novel, potentially transformative research that the NRT will catalyze through interdisciplinary synergies emerging from currently funded activities at UNM and/or via separate NRT-funded interdisciplinary initiatives. Explain how the NRT-funded research would substantially advance, inform, and transform research beyond funded initiatives already underway at the UNM. Keep in mind that NRT funding should be used to complement rather than supplant other research funding.
- **Recent Student Training Experiences:** Describe the experience of the PI and Co-PIs with leading or participating in STEM education and training over the past five years. Describe any overlap and/or complementarity between the training and the proposed NRT program.
- **Recruitment, Mentoring, and Retention:** Describe plans for recruitment, mentoring, and retention of trainees with a particular emphasis on broadening participation of groups underrepresented in STEM fields to integrate diversity into NSF programs, projects, and activities.
- **Performance Assessment/Project Evaluation:** Describe plans to evaluate the success of the training keeping in mind that assessment of the project is a high priority for the NRT program.

Please submit your 4-page pre-proposal (plus abbreviated budget and 2-page CVs for all key personnel; 11-point font) by **NOON on June 17, 2024** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may begin work on your documents outside the InfoReady system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.
If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.