

RISE-PHD RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS SOLICITATION FOR PHD APPLICANTS

PROGRAM GOALS

RISE to the Postdoctorate is supported by an NIH grant. The federal agency specifies the following goals (NIH PAR-10-004):

- *"The goal of the RISE Program is to increase the number of students from UR groups in biomedical and behavioral research who successfully complete the Ph.D. degree in these fields."*
- *"For the purpose of the RISE Program UR groups include those reported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as well as the National Academies to be nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral sciences (i.e., African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, and Natives of US Pacific Islands, and people with disabilities)."*

PROGRAM BENEFITS.

RISE 4 is structured to provide the skills, resources, and knowledge necessary to earn a PhD and secure a competitive postdoctoral appointment at a research intensive institution. The program offers professional development activities and focused research training enhancements.

Students are eligible for RA appointments for up to 12 months per grant year for 20 hrs/week of effort (renewable yearly pending student progress). Students are eligible for tuition remission, health insurance reimbursement, supplies, travel to conferences, and paid research internships at partner institutions. All appointments and benefits are contingent on availability of external funds.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Doctoral students who believe their participation will fulfill the goals for RISE specified by NIH (above) and meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply:

- *full-time matriculation in a PhD degree program at NMSU (confirmable on NMSU transcript).*
- *above average academic standing. New NMSU grad students must have an undergrad BA/BS in a STEM discipline and should have a minimum 3.3 undergraduate science GPA; students who have completed graduate work at NMSU should have a 3.4 graduate GPA.*
- *dissertation research within the scope of the NIH mission (<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>) and under the direct supervision of any member of the NMSU Graduate Faculty (<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/gradfaclist.php#Alpha>) who holds a tenured or tenure-track position and meets the mentor requirements (below).*
- *Students who will complete the PhD degree in 5 years or less; support is limited to the first five years of the doctoral degree.*
- *Applicants with non-NMSU BA/BS degrees and who are (or have been) eligible for Pell grant support are preferred. Matching part-time departmental TA support is encouraged during the academic year.*

MENTOR ELIGIBILITY:

Any member of the NMSU Graduate (Doctoral) Faculty (<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/gradfaclist.php#Alpha>) who holds a tenured or tenure-track position at NMSU and meets these requirements may serve as a RISE mentor:

- Research expertise and experience relevant to biomedical and biobehavioral research and the NIH mission (<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>).
- Track record of mentoring underrepresented minority students to graduate degrees appropriate for rank
- Resources to support the student's project (collaborators, equipment, facilities, funding, etc)

Faculty may nominate 1 student per solicitation round and may mentor a maximum of 2 RISE supported students at a time.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Part 1. Online Preliminary Application.

- Interested students should submit preliminary information at this URL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/rise4year1prelimapp>
- Upon completion, send an email to the RISE Program Office (rise@nmsu.edu) with the subject line: "RISE4Year1 New PhD Applicant: YourName". A Program Director will contact you and provide you with the information for Part 2 of the application:

Part 2. Student/Faculty Joint Application.

Successful degree completion is dependent on the training environment provided by the faculty dissertation advisor. RISE dissertation faculty are expected to provide the mentorship that will enable the continued professional success of a new PhD: *continuance to a postdoctoral appointment in a research institution under the guidance of an accomplished mentor.*

Due to the importance of the mentor-mentee model, the *RISE to the Postdoctorate* application is divided into a student and mentor component. Successful applicants should meet RISE eligibility requirements, be ready to fulfill the program's expectations, and choose a mentor who meets the requirements set forth by the RISE program.

The Program Directors are available to assist students with identifying NMSU faculty with related research interests and to answer questions about the application process (Lusetti, slusetti@nmsu.edu; Serrano, serrano@nmsu.edu; Unguez, gunguez@nmsu.edu).

As per agency stipulation (NIH PAR-10-004): "To receive salary support from the RISE program, students must be U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals or permanent residents and must be enrolled full time in academic degree programs in biomedical or behavioral science fields at the applicant institution. (A non-citizen national is a person who, although not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the U.S.)" NIH prohibits appointment of students concurrently supported by other federal funds. Individuals on temporary visas, those seeking asylum, or refugees are not eligible for support from the RISE program.