

NIDA–Inserm Drug Abuse Research Fellowship

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS²⁰¹⁶

Application Deadline: July 1
Notification of Award: August 14
Begin Fellowship by: March 1 of the following year

The NIDA–Inserm Postdoctoral Drug Abuse Research Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for U.S. and French scientists to obtain postdoctoral training with French and U.S. mentors, respectively. The binational postdoctoral research fellowships are cosponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) International Program and Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (Inserm).

Each fellow benefits from an intensive research training experience designed to enhance the fellow's ability to conduct independent research upon return to his or her home country.

NIDA may support up to two awards for French scientists to work in the United States with a current NIDA grantee, and Inserm may support up to two awards for U.S. scientists to work in France with a mentor at an Inserm research unit or center.

NIDA–Inserm Fellowships are awarded for a 6- to 12-month continuous period of time. Successful candidates will be required to agree to complete the full 6- or 12-month fellowship period.

WHAT THE FELLOWSHIPS PROVIDE

French scientists spending their fellowship in the United States will receive an annual stipend of \$42,000USD for living and personal expenses and \$6,000USD supplemental funding to cover the cost of personal health insurance and professional development activities. NIDA will provide one round-trip, economy class airfare for the fellow only.

U.S. scientists spending their fellowship in France will be employed by Inserm under a temporary contract providing an annual salary between 34,200€ and 45,600€ (depending upon the number of years of postdoctoral experience), including personal health insurance. Inserm will provide one round-trip, economy class airfare for the fellow only.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

French applicants must:

- Hold an earned doctoral degree in medicine or biomedical sciences.
- Have completed postdoctoral research demonstrating the ability to engage in independent research.
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of France.
- Live and work in France at the time the application is submitted.
- Be eligible for a J-1 visa to enter the United States.
- Be proficient in written and spoken English.

U.S. applicants must:

- Hold an earned doctoral degree in medicine or biomedical sciences.
- Have completed postdoctoral research demonstrating the ability to engage in independent research.
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Live and work in the United States at the time the application is submitted.
- Be eligible for a temporary-stay visa to work in France.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTORS

French mentors:

- Must be conducting research in computational neuroscience, bioinformatics, statistics, genetics, epigenetics, neurobiology, or clinical trials in drug abuse and addiction.
- Must be a researcher with one of the agencies included in the *List of Inserm's Host Laboratories and Research Programs*.

U.S. mentors:

- Should be a current NIDA-funded researcher (extramural or intramural) conducting research in computational neuroscience, bioinformatics, statistics, genetics, or epigenetics related to addiction whose project will be active throughout the proposed fellowship period. Researchers funded by other National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Must be a researcher included in the *List of Prospective NIDA-Funded Mentors*.
- Must work at an institution that sponsors the U.S. Department of State "J" Exchange Visitor Program and can prepare and issue the requisite Form DS-2019 for the NIDA–Inserm applicant and his/her dependents.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

The NIDA–Inserm Drug Abuse Research Fellowship application requires careful and thorough coordination between the applicant and mentor. Individuals wishing to apply must:

- Contact an eligible researcher who is willing to serve as a mentor.
 - French applicants refer to the *List of Inserm’s Host Laboratories and Research Programs* to identify an eligible researcher.
 - U.S. applicants refer to the *List of Prospective NIDA-Funded Mentors* to identify an eligible researcher.
- Notify the NIDA International Program (French applicants) and the Inserm Department of National and Foreign Affairs (U.S. applicants) of their plans to apply.
- Write a no more than three-page Research Plan for working with the mentor to investigate computational neuroscience, bioinformatics, statistics, genetics, or epigenetics in drug abuse and addiction.
- Have the mentor complete his or her section of the application and submit it to the appropriate agency.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Incomplete applications will *NOT* be reviewed.**
2. Applications must be typewritten, single-spaced, and single-sided. Applications must be written in English language only.
3. Applicant must complete Part I, Part III—Applicant Section, Part IV, Part V, and Part VI. Applicant should ensure he/she has signed the Applicant Certification and Acceptance section of Part I.
4. Applicant should attach all supporting documents listed on Part III—Application Checklist.
5. Applicant should forward his/her completed sections of the application to the eligible U.S. or French scientist who has agreed to be his/her mentor.
6. The mentor will then complete Part II, Part III—Mentor Section, Part VII, Part VIII, Part IX, and Part X. The mentor should ensure he/she has signed the Mentor Certification and Acceptance section of Part II.
 - ***French applicants:*** On Part X—Sponsoring Institution Certifications and Assurances, signatures are required from the **U.S. mentor, the department head, and an official signing for the sponsoring institution.** The *sponsoring institution official* must be a separate individual from the mentor.
 - ***U.S. applicants:*** On Part X—Sponsoring Institution Certifications and Assurances, signatures are required from the **French mentor** (the supervising scientist at the host laboratory), the **director of the host laboratory**, and the **Inserm Regional Delegate.**
7. The mentor should attach all supporting documents listed on Part III—Application Checklist.

8. Once all signatures are secured and supporting documents attached, the mentor should submit the application.
 - ***French applicants:*** The U.S. mentor should submit the application to the NIDA International Program.
 - ***U.S. applicants:*** The French mentor should submit the application to the Inserm Department of National and Foreign Affairs (DPRE).

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

On the **Reference Report**, the applicant completes Part I of the form. The applicant should provide a copy of the Reference Report form to each of the two professional references.

Each reference will complete Part II of the Reference Report including the rating scale. Each reference also must attach a letter of reference as explained in Part III. Each reference must submit the completed Reference Report and letter of reference directly to the NIDA International Program **by email**.

APPLICATION AND REFERENCE SUBMISSION

Submit the completed documents **electronically** to:

French applicants:

NIDA International Program
Email: ip@nida.nih.gov

U.S. applicants:

Département des Partenariats et des Relations
Exterieures - DPRE
Inserm
Email: Inserm-usa@ambascience-usa.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [NIDA International Program Website](#)
- Email: ip@nida.nih.gov

OR

Inserm-usa@ambascience-usa.org

PREPARING YOUR NIDA–INSERM FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PLAN

The Research Plan (Part VI) is the most important part of the application. This section should be well formulated and presented in sufficient detail so that reviewers can evaluate its scientific merit. The applicant should actively seek the advice and cooperation of the mentor while preparing the Research Plan. The mentor's collaboration is important, but the *applicant* must write the Research Plan. Be specific and informative, and avoid redundancy. Brevity and clarity in the description of the Research Plan are considered indicative of an applicant's approach to the research objective and ability to conduct a superior project. The Research Plan *should not exceed three pages* in addition to the face page. Literature citations are not included in the page limit. The applicant should use the following format:

1. ***Specific Aims.*** State the specific purposes of the research and the hypotheses to be tested.
2. ***Background and Significance.*** Briefly describe the background of the Research Plan. This is an important consideration in the initial review of your application. Concisely state the importance of the Research Plan by relating specific aims to broad, long-term objectives.
3. ***Research Design and Methods.*** Discuss in detail the following:
 - a. The research design and procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims
 - b. Sampling design, if conducting primary data collection
 - c. The analytic plan detailing the statistical approach to addressing the hypotheses
 - d. Any precautions necessary for procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel
 - e. Potential limitations of the proposed project
 - f. The timeline for completion of the proposed investigation
 - g. The contributions that this project will make to the field of drug abuse research.
4. ***NIH Regulations on the Conduct of Research.*** Research conducted in the United States as part of a NIDA–Inserm Fellowship is subject to the same U.S. Federal regulations, policies, guidelines, and review considerations as are all NIH research project grant applications. In this section of the Research Plan, applicants must demonstrate that they understand and have planned to comply with those rules, particularly if the research involves human subjects or vertebrate animals. For a complete discussion of the NIH regulations, consult the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) or Part III, Section 2 of the *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Grant Application, PHS 398 Instructions*.
5. ***Inserm Regulations on the Conduct of Research.*** Research conducted in France as part of a NIDA–Inserm Fellowship is subject to the same French and European regulations, policies, guidelines, and review considerations as are all research projects and activities performed within and/or supported by Inserm. In this section of the Research Plan, applicants must demonstrate that they understand and have planned to comply with those rules, particularly if the research involves human subjects or vertebrate animals. For a complete discussion of the

Inserm regulations, consult the Inserm website at:

[Inserm Research](#)

[Inserm Pre-Clinical Research](#)

[Inserm OGM Research](#)

[Inserm Human Research Regulations \(1\)](#)

[Inserm Human Research Regulations \(2\)](#)

[Inserm Personal Data Research Regulation](#)

6. ***Literature Citations.*** Provide literature citations at the end of the Research Plan. Each citation must include the authors' names, book or journal titles, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications are peer-reviewed through a competitive process and assessed according to scientific merit, the proposal's relevance to drug abuse and NIDA's and Inserm's research missions, adequacy of the applicant's education and experience to conduct the proposed research, likelihood that the proposed research can be completed within the proposed timeline, and compatibility of the applicant's and mentor's objectives. Several factors may enhance the rating of an application, even though all of these items are not necessarily required.

APPLICANT

- Previous experience and education are commensurate with the proposed study.
- Although not yet considered a senior scientist, the applicant has demonstrated sufficient research experience to successfully complete the proposed study.
- The letters of reference support the applicant's scientific record.
- The applicant has authored a peer-reviewed scientific article in the area of the proposed research.

RESEARCH PLAN

- Describes how the proposed study is unique, how it will expand or advance the field of drug abuse research, and how it is consistent with the applicant's career goals.
- Clearly and concisely states proposed aims, goals, and objectives appropriate to the stated hypotheses, conveying scientific sophistication and strong analytical skills.
- Thoroughly reviews the relevant literature.
- Acknowledges any potential regulatory issues or methodological limitations.
- Clearly states the applicant's role in the proposed research and the collaborative plan between the applicant and the mentor.
- Describes what skills and experiences will be gained in the process of working with the mentor, why that proposed training would not otherwise be available to the applicant, and how those skills will be utilized when the applicant returns home.
- Includes a realistic timeline for completing the proposed study within the fellowship period.