

Program Description, Application, and Instructions

Deadline for Applications: January 1 | Award Notification: March 1

The Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award (DISCA) supports direct collaboration between American senior scientists and their colleagues from outside the United States. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) sponsors the program to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction through cooperation on new research methods and techniques; data analysis; collaborative research reports or proposals; or basic, clinical, and applied research. Applicants should propose innovative collaborations that can produce outcomes such as a new investigative finding, scientific publication, or research grant proposal. Within 30 days of completing the exchange visit, awardees will be required to submit a report to NIDA. NIDA is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The U.S. collaborating researcher must be a current NIDA grantee throughout the award period, and the exchange visit must be completed within 12 months of the award announcement.

Provisions

The DISCA provides:

- Monthly allowance of up to \$6,500US to cover living expenses for a period of 1 to 3 months, depending on the project requirements.
- Air travel for one round trip from and to the home city for the scientist only.

Visas and health insurance are the responsibility of the awardees. NIDA will supply a list of recommended health insurance providers, and awardees must provide documentation of health insurance prior to travel.

Eligibility

Applicants for the DISCA must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of a country other than the United States.
- Have a minimum of 7 years' experience in drug abuse research beyond the postdoctoral level.
- Have a documented scientific record that includes peer-reviewed publications.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Successful candidates will be highly qualified researchers from other countries who are working with U.S. scientists currently receiving funding from NIDA. Priority may be given to new initiatives, projects demonstrating defined support from the U.S. or foreign institution, or to proposals that will enhance research skills in the United States or the applicant's home country. Successful applications will:

- Fall within the NIDA research mission.

- Have the potential to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction (as assessed by significance, approach, innovation, and qualifications).
- Be likely to produce a product or other outcome within 1 year.

To Apply

Each applicant for the DISCA must:

- Complete Parts I and III of Page 1, applicant section on Page 2, and Pages 3 through 7. Complete top portion of Page 12.
- Ask your home country supervisor and a research colleague for confidential letters of reference. Provide each with a copy of Page 12 "Reference Report" for them to complete. These letters and completed forms should be sent directly to the NIDA International Program.
- Ask your U.S. collaborating researcher to complete Parts II and III of Page 1, collaborator section on Page 2, plus Pages 8 through 11.
- Ask your U.S. collaborating researcher to have officials from the U.S. host institution complete Page 11.
- Ask your U.S. collaborating researcher to obtain a letter from his/her institution confirming the institution as a sponsor for the U.S. State Department's "J" Exchange Visitor Program and eligibility to prepare and issue Form DS-2019.

Submit the completed application to:

DISCA Program
NIDA International Program
c/o IQ Solutions, Inc.
11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 901
Rockville, Maryland 20852 USA
Telephone: +1-301-984-1471
Fax: +1-301-945-4296
E-mail: ip@nida.nih.gov
Web site: <http://international.drugabuse.gov>