

## **Policy for Postdoctoral Fellow Grant Applications**

**Purpose:** The NIH and other agencies specify that the Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual designated by the grantee institution to direct the project or activity being supported by research grants. He/she is responsible to the grantee institution for the proper conduct of the project or activity. Unless there are specific eligibility requirements specified in the grant/contract guidelines, the grantee institutions have the responsibility for establishing eligibility criteria for its applicants and thus who may serve as a PI.

Thomas Jefferson University has traditionally designated that only individuals with a full time faculty appointment are eligible to apply for grants and to submit proposals for contracts (this excludes applications for fellowships and other training support grants). However, in order to maximize utilization of extramural funding opportunities and to further the development of postdoctoral fellows towards independence, it is in the interest of Thomas Jefferson University to expand the eligibility requirements for submission of grant and contract applications to include certain fully employed non-faculty individuals under certain circumstances and with certain stipulations. It is anticipated that adoption of this policy will have several positive effects, including enhancement of the University's research portfolio, enhancement of staff development, and retention of talented and productive staff. In particular, this would enhance the retention and provide a pathway for career advancement of senior postdoctoral fellows as they transition into an independent position. Towards this end, the following policy guides the submission of research grants by postdoctoral appointees.

**Policy:** The privilege of submitting a research grant application shall be extended to research trainees who are categorized as postdoctoral fellows under the following conditions:

1. Applications are limited to those grants specifically designated by the sponsor to be intended for postdoctoral fellows. The intent to submit an application should be reviewed and endorsed by both the applicant's supervisor, home department chair, and granting agency prior to preparing the application. Such an endorsement shall consider an evaluation of (a) the level of independence and experience of the principal investigator with respect to different grant opportunities (e.g. NIH RO1 versus foundation grant for junior investigator) and (b) the ability of the proposed principal investigator to get a fair evaluation by the peer review process of the sponsor.
2. The applicant's supervisor and department chair must document the availability of sufficient resources (including space, time and effort) to support the proposed research.
3. Applications must follow the standard internal procedures and utilize the standard internal forms for grant submissions. The applicant is bound by all pertinent policies governing the pre- and post-award management of sponsored programs at TJU.