

## **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) *Future of Nursing Scholars* program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Updated 6/2/15 – This Document Refers to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals**

### **General FAQs:**

#### **1. How is the program administered?**

Direction and technical assistance for this program are provided through the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, which serves as the national program office (NPO). This program is directed by Julie Fairman, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN.

**2. How do I find out more about the *Future of Nursing Scholars* program?** You may send questions about the program to the national program office at [fns@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:fns@nursing.upenn.edu). Please include your name and telephone number in the inquiry. You may also visit the program's [webpage](#).

### **Call for Proposals FAQs:**

#### **1. Does my institution need to be an accredited school of nursing?**

Yes, grants will be awarded only to accredited schools of nursing. In addition, applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories and be either a public entity or tax-exempt as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3).

#### **2. What is the maximum grant amount and what is the grant period?**

The program will award \$75,000 per scholar, which will be matched with \$50,000 by the school (which may be in-kind). These funds will be used over the course of three years, during which the scholar will complete a PhD in nursing. Schools may provide more than the required match.

#### **3. How can program funds be used?**

The school and the scholar will decide how to use the \$125,000 (\$75,000 from the program and \$50,000 school match) for expenses such as tuition, fees, living expenses, research and travel expenses and/or health insurance. The program suggests that the federal rate for stipends be used as noted on T32 grants (\$22,920 per year) and that the remaining money be used for research support or travel needs. The \$75,000 from the program cannot be used for university administration costs. Some additional restrictions on the use of funds may apply in the case that the funding is restricted to an employee of the funder.

#### **4. What is the role of the mentors?**

The *Future of Nursing Scholars* program requires that the student, in consultation with the school, selects two mentors—a primary nurse mentor/dissertation advisor experienced in the

research process with a demonstrated track record of independent research, extramural funding and scholarship; and a mentor from a school or field outside of nursing (could be from the same university or outside of the university and agreed upon by primary mentor), working in the scholar's research area or other related fields such as economics, policy or innovation, who will support his or her development as a scholar.

Scholars and their primary mentors will attend two summer institutes over the three years of the program. For the Scholars in our third cohort, the first institute will be held in summer 2017 and the second will be in summer 2018. In addition, the program will pay for scholars to attend a boot camp prior to the beginning of funding (dates to be determined in summer 2016).

All Boot Camp costs will be covered by the national program office. Our administrative coordinator will work with the *Scholars* to arrange their travel.

The hotel and travel costs associated with the two Summer Institutes will not be covered by the national program office. *Scholars* may use awarded or matching funds to cover these costs. The mentors' hotel and travel costs will be paid by the school or department and may not be covered by the awarded funds or matching funds.

## **5. When will grants begin?**

Grants will begin August 1, 2016 for the schools selected in our third cohort.

## **6. What funders are participating in the program?**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will provide funding in each round of the program. The additional funders may change each year. Additional funders may be added to the website after the CFP has been released.

For the 2016 Call for Proposals, schools may be supported by one of 7 funders. These funders each have different criteria.

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. No geographic or topic restrictions.
- Johnson and Johnson Services, Inc. No geographic or topic restrictions.
- North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System. Selected scholars will be employees of the health system.
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Selected scholars will be employees of the health system.
- Ascension Health. Selected scholars will be employees of the health system.
- Kaiser Permanente. Selected scholars will be employees of the health system.
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Selected scholars will be employees of the health system.

## **7. Are schools that are located near funders at an advantage?**

Some of the funders do have regional restrictions in terms of funding. Therefore, there will be some schools that may have increased opportunities for funding if they fall within the catchment area of one of the funders with geographic limitations. However, schools must still meet the selection criteria of the program. Having a funder restricting funding to a geographic area does not guarantee selection.

If schools have a local funder that they would like to refer to the program, they should contact the funder to determine interest and intent and then contact [fns@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:fns@nursing.upenn.edu).

**8. In such cases where a regional restriction applies, would the restriction relate to the location of the school or the students from that area?**

All funds will go to the schools, so it is the school's location that will be considered in such cases.

**9. Can schools approach local funders for the \$50,000 match which schools are required to provide?**

Yes. Schools can approach local funders to contribute to the school to fulfill the \$50,000 match requirement. The match funds cannot be taken from other RWJF grants to the school. Schools can also discuss having a funder contribute the \$75,000 as part of the funders' collaborative responsibility.

**10. Will there be additional rounds of funding?**

Yes. The fourth call for proposals will be released in summer 2016.

**Eligibility FAQs:**

**1. Who is eligible to receive a grant under this program?**

Schools with research-focused nursing PhD programs are eligible to apply for the program. After receiving the award, selected schools will then choose the PhD students to be designated as *Future of Nursing Scholars*. Schools must have the resources available to facilitate the student's successful completion of a PhD in three years and provide a \$50,000 (which can be in-kind) match to be used over the three years of the program.

**2. Can a selected school choose current students to participate as Future of Nursing scholars (i.e. students that have already started their PhD program)?**

No. This program is for new incoming doctoral students pursuing PhDs in nursing. One of the program's goals is to increase the number of nursing PhD admissions at participating schools. Therefore, applicants should demonstrate how the use of program funds will allow this to be accomplished.

**3. Will preference be given to schools that are known for particular research topics or methods?**

Although some funders have identified specific research topic interests, in general, we will not give preference for specific research topics or methods.

**4. Are on-line programs eligible?**

Yes. We are taking all research-focused nursing PhD programs into consideration. However, we see the importance of building a cohort of support for scholars engaged in this program. Therefore, schools must demonstrate not only the merits of their curriculum, but the ways that they will provide that support to students to complete their degree in three years.

**5. Will students who begin in a summer session be eligible?**

If the students are members of a new cohort, this may be considered.

**6. Is there a preference for BSN-PhD students?**

There is no preference, but we certainly welcome them. The school will have to describe how they will meet the three year completion requirement.

**7. Must students hold a BSN?**

Yes, but they do not need to have completed their MSN. Schools must demonstrate how they will support these students to complete their nursing PhDs in three years. However, BSN-PhD students may take courses toward their PhDs in their senior year.

**8. What if the selected scholar doesn't complete the degree in three years?**

Funding will not extend past three years. If the student exceeds that time, it will be at the expense of the student and the school. The student would not be eligible to be considered for the post-doctoral award.

**9. Will the program support DNP students?**

The IOM Future of Nursing report recommended doubling the number of nurses with doctorates. Many nurses are entering DNP programs and we applaud the rising enrollments in DNP programs. The number of nurses entering PhD programs, however, has remained stagnant. RWJF is committed to tackling the most difficult problems and has focused this program on increasing the number of nurses with PhDs to build the science and discovery capacity of the next generation of nurse researchers and faculty. This program will only support nurses pursuing a research focused PhD in nursing or a related field.

**10. The call for proposals and application materials reference interdisciplinary collaboration as something schools should discuss in the applications. What constitutes interdisciplinary collaboration?**

We believe that interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaboration enhance a student's educational experience, informs their research, and facilitates leadership development and networking opportunities not only in the PhD program but also for later career development. Both interprofessional (two or more health professional disciplines working together) and interdisciplinary (two or more health, social science and other disciplines working together) collaboration are important hallmarks of this program. Applicants are asked to describe the structures within the school and the university that facilitate student and faculty interdisciplinary collaboration.

Scholars are required to identify a secondary mentor outside the discipline of nursing and who will provide interdisciplinary mentorship in the areas of innovation, science, or policy. In addition, schools may discuss coursework that is completed outside the school of nursing, research opportunities for scholars to work on interdisciplinary teams, etc.

**Application FAQs:**

**1. Can schools from outside the US or its territories apply for the program?**

No.

**2. How are the proposals submitted?**

NO FAXES, EMAILS or Fed Ex deliveries WILL BE ACCEPTED. Proposals must be submitted online through the RWJF Application Online and Review System, [www.myrwjf.org](http://www.myrwjf.org).

Questions about the program, selection criteria or application requirements should be sent to [fns@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:fns@nursing.upenn.edu). Please include your name and telephone number in the inquiry.

**3. What criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals?**

The National Advisory Committee (NAC) will evaluate proposals based on the criteria described in the CFP: These include:

- Ability to facilitate the scholar's successful completion of the PhD in nursing in 3 years.
- Ability to guarantee \$50,000 in matching funds over 3 years to support each scholar. These funds may be in kind e.g. tuition and/or research support, health insurance, supplement of stipend, support for scholars to participate in *Future of Nursing Scholars* yearly programs. Matching funds may not be taken from other RWJF grants. Although schools may provide more than the \$50,000 required match, such commitments will not ensure that preference will be given to the selection of the school.

- The identification of a primary nurse mentor/dissertation advisor experienced in the research process with a demonstrated track record of independent research, extramural funding and scholarship; and a stakeholder outside the discipline of nursing and who will provide mentorship in the areas of innovation, science, or policy. The mentor does not have to be identified in the proposal but examples should be included.
- Specific evidence of interdisciplinary engagement across the school and the University involving students and faculty.
- Specific evidence of faculty and student diversity.
- The administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award on behalf of the scholar and to comply with all reporting requirements.

#### **4. How does the selection process work?**

The national program office (NPO) will review applications and forward those that meet the eligibility criteria to the national advisory committee (NAC) for review. Given the variety of funders for this program, the NAC will review all applications meeting the eligibility criteria in a two-stage process.

First, the NAC will review all schools that meet the eligibility criteria and have indicated on their application an interest in being matched with one or more funders with funder-specific criteria. The NAC will evaluate applicants based on the selection criteria outlined in this call for proposals and match schools with funders. In the event that only one school indicates an interest in being matched with a particular funder, the NAC will still evaluate the application on the basis of the general and funder-specific selection criteria to verify that the school meets all such criteria.

Second, after the NAC matches schools with those funders with funder-specific criteria, it will evaluate all remaining eligible schools for support with RWJF or other funds without funder-specific criteria. Note that schools indicating on the application that they can support multiple scholars may receive funding from multiple sources.

Through this process, the NAC will select finalist schools, match the schools with a funder, and make recommendations to the appropriate funder. RWJF makes all final decisions related to scholars funded by RWJF funds. Per RWJF policy, neither RWJF, the NPO or the NAC will provide feedback regarding an individual application's strengths and weaknesses.

#### **5. How will I know if my proposal has been successfully submitted? How can I check the status of my proposal?**

Once the proposal is submitted through RWJF Online Application and Review System, you will receive an email confirming that you have submitted your proposal successfully.

If you have a question about a specific proposal, please send an e-mail to [fns@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:fns@nursing.upenn.edu). Please be sure to include your name, the name of your school of nursing, and your contact information in your communication.

**6. Do I need to submit a budget with the proposal?**

You will not be asked to provide a budget with your proposal. However, your narrative should include your school's tuition and stipend policies and provide an overview of how the funds will be allocated and how the match was obtained.

**7. What is the page limit for the proposal narrative?**

The narrative section of the brief proposal, including section headings, is limited to 10 pages with 1.5 line spacing using 12-point Times New Roman font, excluding references. Any additional materials will not be reviewed.

**8. What is the time period (start/end dates and duration) for these grants?**

Awards will start August 1, 2016 and will continue for three academic years.

**9. How many scholars will be chosen?**

For the 2016 cohort, up to 75 scholars will be chosen to receive three years of funding. Preference will be given to schools that can support at least two (2) scholars in this cohort.

**10. What are the key dates for the 2016 cohort application, review, and notification processes?**

*July 22, 2015 (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET)*

Informational applicant webinar for interested schools.

Register: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wnr6lcj4xjhj&eom>

*September 17, 2015 (3 p.m. ET)*

Deadline for receipt of applications.\*

*November 2015*

The national advisory committee selects finalist schools.

*December 2015*

Schools receive notification of awards.

*August 2016*

Awards begin.

**11. What is the application deadline?**

The deadline is 3 p.m. ET on September 17, 2015. To be accepted for review, your proposals must be completed and submitted by the deadline. To be fair to all applicants, RWJF will not review any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline.

**12. Can scholars involved in the program seek additional funding?**

Yes. We encourage scholars to pursue [National Research Service Awards \(NRSAs\)](#) and other opportunities. However, please note the limitation on philanthropic fellowships in question 18 below.

**13. How could an NRSA be used to supplement funding available from this program?**

An NRSA may be used for stipend and tuition costs. Funds from this program could be used to off-set additional tuition or stipend needs, as well as research and travel needs. NRSA stipends are capped at \$22,920 and NRSA tuition is capped at \$16,000. Supplementation is allowed on NRSAs.

**14. Can individual NRSA funding be counted as the school match?**

No, an individual NRSA cannot reduce or replace the school's \$50,000 match commitment. NRSA's support is additional and gives the institution more flexibility in how they use their own matching funds. Scholars would be applying for NRSA support after entering the FNS program. They cannot have support before becoming an FNS scholar because the goal of the program is to increase the number of nurses entering PhD programs.

**15. Can institutional NRSA funding be counted as the school match?**

No, an institutional NRSA cannot reduce the school's \$50,000 commitment. The goal of the FNS program is to increase the number of doctorally prepared nurses in the country. An institutional NRSA is a mechanism to support doctoral education. The FNS program is creating new opportunities for supporting PhD students. If an institutional NRSA supports a FNS scholar, it would be considered supplemental support. However, schools can approach local funders to contribute to the school to fulfill the \$50,000 match requirement.

**16. Can the school-selected scholars receive scholarship funding through another philanthropic fellowship and still be eligible to become a *Future of Nursing Scholar*?**

No. In support of the IOM Future of Nursing report, the *Future of Nursing Scholars* program seeks to increase the number of nurses with PhDs. We applaud our philanthropic colleagues who provide scholarship funding to nurses pursuing doctoral degrees. It will take all of our collective support to double the number of nurses with doctoral degrees in the U.S. The program also seeks

to shorten the time to completion of the PhD degree to 3 years. Thus students who already have scholarship funding through another philanthropic fellowship are not eligible for consideration as *Future of Nursing Scholars*. Other fellowships frequently have extra time and project commitments that may interfere with the focused study necessary for a three year PhD completion.

**17. Can indirect costs be taken on these awards?**

No. Neither the \$75,000 award nor the \$50,000 match may include indirect costs.

**18. Do schools have to apply each year?**

To be considered to add additional scholars, you must apply each year. However, once enrolled, scholars are in the program for the three years and the school does not need to reapply on their behalf. Previously selected schools may be evaluated for scholar progress.

**19. Are there additional deliverables for participating scholars?**

The program will be judicial with scholars' time. Scholars will be required to attend the kick off boot camp, the webinar series, and 2 summer institutes. The leadership development and mentoring activities will be valuable supplements to, and not interfere with, the scholars' regular coursework, and will give them added skills to succeed. These activities will also be value added for the school and contribute to the school's development program.

All Boot Camp costs will be covered by the national program office. Our administrative coordinator will work with the *Scholars* to arrange their travel. With their primary mentors, *Scholars* will attend two in-person Leadership Institutes. The hotel and travel costs associated with the two Summer Institutes will not be covered by the national program office. *Scholars* may use awarded or matching funds to cover these costs. The mentors' hotel and travel costs will be paid by the school or department and may not be covered by the awarded funds or matching funds.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation FAQs:**

**1. What is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation?**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, we work with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 40 years we've brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those we serve. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, we expect to make a difference in your lifetime.

## **2. How can I obtain more information about RWJF?**

Please visit the Foundation's Web site at <http://www.rwjf.org>.