NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER PROGRAM (NSF 11-690)
The following is a condensed version of the guidelines, with added UT requirements and an FAQ section. Please visit the following link for the full guidelines:

INTERNAL OSP DEADLINE: July 16 for all opportunities shown below

The Office of Sponsored Projects will submit the applications directly to the NSF on your behalf.

You must submit a Proposal Review Form (PRF) in order to notify OSP that you have a proposal that needs to be placed on the submission queue. Prepare and submit your PRF here: https://utdirect.utexas.edu/rms/index.WBX

NSF APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 23, 2012
BIO, CISE HER, OCI
July 24, 2012
ENG
July 25, 2012
GEO, MPS, SBE, OPP

FUNDING PERIOD: Five (5) years

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:
Each PI may only submit one CAREER proposal per annual competition. A PI may not participate in more than three CAREER competitions. Proposals that are not reviewed (i.e., are withdrawn or are returned without review) do not count toward the three-competition limit.

ELIGIBILITY
Proposers must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:
By the Directorate's deadline for submission of CAREER proposals:
• Hold a doctoral degree;
• Be untenured; and
• Have not previously received an NSF PECASE or CAREER award (prior or concurrent Federal support for other types of awards or for non-duplicative research does not preclude eligibility);

AND
By October 1st following the deadline for submission of CAREER proposals:
• Be employed in a tenure-track position (or tenure-track-equivalent position) as an assistant professor (or equivalent title) at an institution located in the U.S., its territories, or possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, that awards degrees in a field supported by NSF;

OR
• Be employed in a tenure-track position (or tenure-track-equivalent position) as an assistant professor (or equivalent title) at an organization located in the U.S., its territories or possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, that is a non-profit, non-degree-granting organization such as a museum, observatory, or research lab.

APPLICATION FORMAT:
Proposal Content
This program solicitation contains supplemental instructions to the standard GPG proposal preparation guidelines. All standard sections of the proposal are required. The following instructions supplement the guidelines in the GPG for the specified sections.

• The Cover Sheet:
  • Program Solicitation Number.
  • Unit of Consideration.
  • Project Title. The project title must begin with "CAREER:" and follow with an informative title.
  • Co-PIs. No co-PIs are permitted.
  • PI eligibility information. As part of the cover sheet entry, proposers must complete and submit the CAREER and PECASE certifications, thereby self-certifying their eligibility for the CAREER Program and their eligibility to be considered for the PECASE award, if desired.

• Project Summary:
• Project Description:
• References Cited:
• Biographical Sketch of Principal Investigator:
• Special Information and Supplementary Documentation:
  Scan the signed original(s) of the following document(s) and upload the scans as a PDF file into the Supplementary Documents section of the proposal. Do not send paper copies to NSF. All documents must be submitted with the proposal in Fastlane by the deadline.

  • Departmental Letter. To demonstrate the department’s support of the integrated research and education plan of the CAREER awardee, the proposal must include one (and only one) letter from the PI's department head (or equivalent organizational official). If a proposer is in two departments, the letter should be signed by the Department Head in which tenure will be granted. In those cases where tenure is a joint decision, the letter should be signed by both Department Heads.

  • Letters of Collaboration. If applicable, the proposal should include short letters of commitment from collaborators. Letters of recommendation are not permitted, and will be removed from the proposal prior to review.

NSF Merit Review Criteria
All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed effort.
The two NSB-approved merit review criteria are listed below. The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal.

  • What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?
  • What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?
    • Integration of Research and Education
    • Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

BUDGET
Cost Sharing: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

Other Budgetary Limitations:
The minimum CAREER award size is $400,000 for a five-year period for all directorates except BIO. For proposals submitted to the BIO directorate, the minimum award size is $500,000 over five years. Before preparing a CAREER proposal, PIs are strongly encouraged to contact their disciplinary program director or the appropriate division's CAREER contact to discuss appropriate budget requests for their proposed CAREER activities, and typical funding levels for their discipline.

No salary support for other Senior Personnel (i.e., Budget Category A) is permitted, in either the primary budget or in any subawards. All other allowable costs, as described in the Grant Proposal Guide, are permitted. SEE GUIDELINES FOR FULL DESCRIPTION.

**An internal cost share form will be necessary for any PI or Co-PI listed in the proposal.

Budget Preparation Instructions:
A Budget Justification (limit three pages) must be included as part of the CAREER proposal.

FAQs:
How do I prepare my forms?
Log on to FastLane to create your proposal: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/jsp/homepage/proposals.jsp

Online help for proposal preparation:
https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/NSFHelp/flashhelp/fastlane/FastLane_Help/fastlane_help.htm#proposal_functions_introduction.htm

What is the PECASE?
PECASE: Each year NSF selects nominees for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from among the most meritorious new CAREER awardees. Selection for this award is based on two important criteria: 1) innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology that is relevant to the mission of the sponsoring organization or agency, and 2) community service demonstrated through scientific leadership, education or community outreach. These awards foster innovative developments in science and technology, increase awareness of careers in science and engineering, give recognition to the scientific missions of the participating agencies, enhance connections between fundamental research and national goals, and highlight the importance of science and technology for the Nation's future. Individuals cannot apply for PECASE. These awards are initiated by the participating federal agencies. At NSF, up to twenty nominees for this award are selected each year from among the PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees who are most likely to become the leaders of academic research and education in the twenty-first century. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy makes the final selection and announcement of the awardees.