**KL2 Junior Faculty Mentored Research Award Frequently Asked Questions**

**Eligibility**

**Do I need to have a faculty appointment for the KL2 award?**

Yes. Assistant Professors and Assistant Research Scientists are eligible for the KL2 award. Post-doctoral fellows and Project Scientists may also apply, but special provisions must be satisfied. They must have departmental or division approval for faculty appointment at time of initiation of funding. The ACTRI will verify that a candidate’s file has been approved by the department and is in process with CAP before initiating KL2 funding. In addition, specific language is required in your Chair’s Letter affirming that your department is working toward approving your faculty appointment (please see below **Application** section).

**Am I eligible if I have already received another award or research funding?**

Please see the table below to determine eligibility.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Previous Award** | **Role** | **Eligibility for KL2** |
| Mentored K or equivalent (i.e. K12) | Awardee | Not eligible, with exceptions. Please contact KL2  representatives for information. |
| R01 | PI | Not eligible |
| P01, P50, P50, U54 | Subproject PI | Not eligible |
| F or T | Awardee | Eligible |
| R03 or equivalent | PI | Eligible |
| Foundation/ Industry Funding | Any, including PI | Eligible, with stipulations. Please contact KL2 representatives for information. |
| All others | Any, including PI | Eligible, with stipulations. Please  contact KL2 representatives for information. |

**Do I need to be a US Citizen or have permanent residence in the US to apply?**

You are welcome to apply, but if your project is selected for funding at the time of award (Dec 2023 to May 2024) and there is no residency secured we cannot make the offer (i.e., won’t wait for the citizenship). US Citizenship is an NIH requirement for this K award. NIH will accept other legal verification of admission for permanent residence. See below for NIH guidelines on citizenship:

*Citizenship*

*All eligible awardees/applicants must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551) or other legal verification of admission for permanent residence. Non-citizen nationals are persons born in lands that are not States but are under U.S. sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration (e.g., American Samoa). Individuals on visas are not eligible.*

**Do I need to have an approved IRB/IACUC protocol to apply?**

No, you will not need an approved protocol to apply. However, once you submit your application we will send you a list of documents required for funding should you be selected.

**How long am I eligible for a KL2 after completing my post-doc/ medical fellowship?**

Only candidates within 5 years after completing their post-doc, medical fellowship, or equivalent, are eligible to apply for a KL2.

**Are surgeons and other procedurally-oriented applicants eligible?**

Yes, surgeons and other procedurally-oriented applicants are eligible for a KL2.

In addition, certain procedurally-oriented subspecialties may be eligible for a modified award with only 50% required research time. If you think this may apply to you, contact [actri-education@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:actri-education@health.ucsd.edu) for more details before applying.

**Do I need to be a physician or other clinician to apply for the KL2 award?**

No. PhDs and non-clinicians are *also eligible*.

**Award**

**If I am awarded a KL2, may I also apply for additional mentored K awards (K08 or K23), or research grants (R01, R03, R15, industry-funded, etc.)?**

Yes. Appointed KL2 scholars can definitely apply for K08, K01 or K23 support, typically during their second and third award years. If they are successful, they move from the KL2 to the new award. Scholars cannot simultaneously hold two career development awards from federal or other sources. The total combined K award time, including the KL2, cannot exceed 5-8 years depending on the guidelines of individual institutes within the NIH.

KL2 scholars may also apply for R-series research support. Scholars receive salary support from any other US Public Health Service sources (NIH, CDC, FDA, etc.) so long as they remain at 75% effort on the KL2 (or 50% if a procedure-oriented scholar).

KL2 scholars may receive additional research funding (such as industry funding or foundation awards) concurrently with their KL2, but the effort requirement of the KL2 still applies and additional funding must be disclosed to ACTRI*.*

**Are KL2 Scholars eligible to apply for the NIH Loan Repayment Program?**

Yes, many KL2 scholars have successfully applied for this program. More information is available at [www.lrp.nih.gov.](http://www.lrp.nih.gov/)

**May I defer acceptance of this award?**

No, we do not accept deferrals.

**Does the KL2 award provide funding for research-related expenses?**

The KL2 is a Career Development Award, providing funding in the form of salary support. There is also $25,000 per year in research funds, prorated based on awardee’s appointment start and end dates.  Particular spending rules apply and not all expenses are allowable.

**Application**

**Do I need to apply through the Research Affairs/HSSPPO office?**

No, you will apply directly to ACTRI by clicking on the Apply Now button on the KL2 Grant Support webpage to start an InfoReady application or clicking [here](https://forms.monday.com/forms/936e1122427a1c6639a755fe3bf0197f?r=use1) You will not need to submit RES or other internal forms required by HSSPPO.

**What are reviewers looking for in this application?**

As this is a Career Development Award, reviewers expect training and mentoring plans that are as well delineated as the research plans. Reviewers are also looking for strong departmental support, thoughtful and engaged mentor participation, and a demonstrated mentor track record of successful fostering of career development among former mentees.

The review criteria, which are scored on a 1-9 scale just like NIH applications, include the following:

* Applicant’s CV and publication record
* Mentor’s support letter
* Chair’s support letter
* Translational science focus
* Training plan
* Research plan
* Likelihood of subsequent NIH funding

**What is meant by “translational science focus” as a review criterion?**

This criterion is broad and refers to the potential for the focal research to lead to new treatments, services or practices.  Projects that score highly on this criterion would address some barrier in science that impedes the process of translation of discoveries that would generalize to other diseases and/or across branches of biomedical research.  Addressing a barrier in science may be the entire focus of the project or a sub aim.  We do also note that the KL2 program is open to applications from basic science to clinical research to implementation science and public health.  For more about translational science, see the following from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>

**What should be included in the abstract?**

Write your abstract as you would for an NIH independent K award with both a summary of your research scientific plan and training plan.

**What should be included in the “Training and Mentoring Plan”?**

This plan should delineate a specific plan for mentoring (including frequency of meetings, roles of mentors, etc.) that is aligned with specific training goals. The Education Committee is particularly interested in your mentors’ commitments to your career development and achievement of independent researcher status within three years. Specific mentoring plans that demonstrate this commitment will be favorably received.

In addition, KL2 awardees are expected to complete coursework such as CREST courses in clinical and translational research. Include specific planned CREST or other courses and a timeline for completion. Specify how courses will fit into your professional development.

**What should be included in the “Mentor’s Support Letter”?**

The following items are REQUIRED in the Mentor’s Support Letter:

- Primary Mentor’s plans for supporting your career development, including plans for you to achieve independence as a researcher within 3 years

- Primary Mentor’s BioSketch and Other Support documents

- List of the Mentor’s trainees in the last 10 years, with their current academic titles and locations

- Letters from Co-Mentors, if applicable

In addition, the following items are recommended:

- Specific resources, such as laboratory space, available to you

- Proposed frequency of meetings

**What should be included in the “Chair’s Letter”?**

The following statements are REQUIRED in the Chair’s Letter:

- Applicant will dedicate at least 75% of effort to research (unless 50% applies)

- All departmental obligations (night call, inpatient or outpatient clinical coverage, teaching obligations) will not add up to more than 25% of effort

- Such activities need approval of CTSA education committee

If you do not yet have a faculty appointment (for example, if the candidate is a project scientist or is on a MOP contract), the Chair’s letter should also include:

- Specific position title proposed for the candidate

- Current status of proposal of your file for faculty appointment

- Projected timeline for proposed appointment

Letters that do not specify the status of the appointment and its timeline will not be sent for review.

**What if I have multiple mentors, with different mentoring plans?**

You may include more than 1 mentor’s support letter in the “Mentor’s Support Letter” section. Mentor letters are 2 pages max each but no limit, for example, in case you have 4 mentors.

**Do I need to provide a budget justification?**

No, a budget justification is not required at the time of submission. If your project is selected for potential funding, we will request a brief budget justification that would address use of funds allotted for research/training activities.

**What expectations are there of KL2 scholars and their mentors?**

As described in the application, scholars are expected to complete CREST courses or show equivalency, attend and complete homework for all seminars of the KL2 career development series in Year 1, complete all required reporting, cite the grant and adhere to NIH public access policy for all publications, and engage their mentors and KL2 leadership to ensure career progress. Scholars are also expected to submit K23 and/or R01 applications, or their equivalents, by the end of their third year.

KL2 mentors are expected to maintain a consistent and constructive role in the KL2 scholars’ career development, stay regularly engaged with KL2 leadership, complete all required reporting, and seek assistance as needed.