

NSF Chemistry Office Hour

Today's Topic: Research in Undergraduate Institutions
and Research Opportunity Awards,

RUI/ROA 14-579

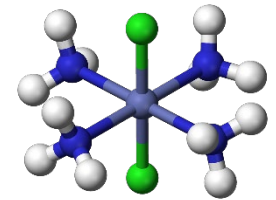
July 24, 2020

Presenters: Michelle Bushey and Rebecca Peebles
CHE Program Directors



Presubmission: RUI/ROA

- RUI Research at Undergraduate Institutions
- ROA Research Opportunity Awards
- PUI Predominantly Undergraduate Institution (as defined by NSF)
- PI Principal Investigator
- REU Research Experience for Undergraduates
- PAPPG Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide
- AOR Authorized Organizational Representative

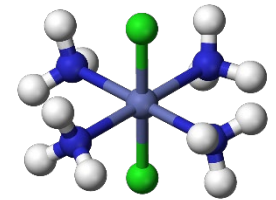


Presubmission: RUI/ROA

- When is the deadline?
Deadlines/Windows for RUI are program dependent
- Consult the NSF website to locate a likely program (“Home” for your project).
- Make use of “Search Awards” capability to locate abstracts of proposals with comparable objectives/key words to your work

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/>

<https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearch.jsp>
<https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearch.jsp>



Presubmission

- 4-6 months in advance - Find a likely program. Look at the program synopsis. Does it resonate? Draft a 1-2 page (very specific) white paper
- Contact the Program Director to determine if your project is appropriate.
<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/programs.jsp?org=CHE>
- Do you know your AOR?



CHE Disciplinary Research Programs

September Submission Window

Chemical Catalysis

Kenneth Moloy kmoloy@nsf.gov

Chemical Synthesis

Jin Cha jcha@nsf.gov

Chemical Structure, Dynamics & Mechanisms A

Colby Foss cfoss@nsf.gov

Chemical Structure, Dynamics & Mechanisms B

Tingyu Li tli@nsf.gov

Chemical Theory, Models & Computational Methods

Evelyn Goldfield egoldfie@nsf.gov

Contact cognizant program officer for any questions on “proposal fit”

View website for most up to date [staff contact information](#)

CHE Disciplinary Research Programs

October Submission Window

Chemical Measurements and Imaging

Kelsey Cook kcook@nsf.gov

Chemistry of Life Processes

Catalina Achim cachim@nsf.gov

Environmental Chemical Science

Anne-Marie Schmoltner
aschmolt@nsf.gov

*Macromolecular,
Supramolecular
& Nanochemistry*

Suk-Wah Tam-Chang
stamchan@nsf.gov

Contact cognizant program officer for any questions on “proposal fit”

View website for most up to date [staff contact information](#)

CHE Disciplinary Research Programs (DRP) Solicitation & PAPPG Updates

Individual investigator awards to CHE programs that are RUI: should be submitted through

Program Announcement/Solicitation No. [NSF14-579](#)

For Consideration by NSF Organization Unit(s)

CHE – (name of program)

Proposals should follow latest Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide ([PAPPG NSF 20-1](#))

as well as Division of Chemistry Disciplinary Research Programs. [NSF 20-577](#)



RUI – 14-579 – describes both RUI and ROA

RUI is a mechanism, not a separate funding stream

Housed within a specific research program and has the same *programmatic deadlines or submission windows as other proposals*

RUI: Designed to support faculty research in predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUI)

- 1. supports high quality research by faculty
- 2. strengthens research environment
- 3. promotes integration of education and research of undergrads

- Certificate of Eligibility required **Contact your AOR**
 - *20 or fewer PhD/DSci in NSF fields for 2 previous years*
 - *PUI ≠ RUI*



Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI)

- The title should begin with “RUI”
- Overriding purpose is to support faculty, but involvement of undergrads is important – no undergrads? – talk to a Program Officer.
Graduate students, postdocs CAN be included.
- Budget request can be the same as for PhD granting institutions. Ask for what you need.
- RUI eligible institutions are not required to submit as an RUI
- At a PUI but not RUI eligible? You can explain your environment in the proposal.



Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI)

- Reviewed along side and on same basis as other proposals
- Reviewers instructed that:
 - the publication rate for RUI investigators and the pace of research at RUIs may be slower than at major research institutions
 - that the scope of the work may be more narrow
 - the quality of *the science is as strong* as other proposals
 - Directed to consider:

Distinguishing Feature:

- “RUI impact statement” (5-page maximum) – see pages 8-9 of 14-579



RUI 5-page Impact Statement — a required component

Allows reviewers to assess the impact of the proposed research

- on the local PUI research environment
- faculty career
- department's ability to improve the preparation of students

Should highlight

- department record of student education and preparation
- student recruitment and broadening participation
- student inclusion and success metrics
- teaching loads, productivity, resources

RUI impact statement does not eliminate the need to discuss broader impacts in the 15 page project description



ROA - Research Opportunity Award – also described in 14-579

- ROAs enable faculty at RUI eligible institutions, to pursue research as *visiting scientists* with NSF-supported investigators at other institutions.
- Goal is to “enhance the research productivity and professional development of science faculty at undergraduate institutions through research activities that explore the emerging frontiers of science”. It also enhances teaching.
- Most frequently, ROA activities are summer experiences, but partial support of sabbaticals may also be provided.
- Support for salary or stipend for undergraduate faculty, travel to host lab and/or to attend meetings, research supplies



ROA

- ROA requires that the RUI faculty connect with an NSF grantee
- Making connections with an NSF grantee
 - Think about your collaborators, field colleagues
 - Consult NSF abstracts for awards in relevant field
- The nature of the research responsibility, the duration of the ROA visit, salary, and other arrangements with respect to employment, are matters negotiated between the host institution, the PI, the prospective visiting scientist, and his/her home institution.



ROA

- ROAs can be submitted as:
- *a supplement to an existing NSF awardee.* The RUI faculty connects to the NSF awardee. Submit at least 3 months prior, typically modest budget in CHE.
- *an ROA component to a new proposal.* There are 2 options:
 - The RUI is included as a linked collaborator.
Both institutions are credited with awards.
 - The RUI is included as a subaward. One award is made to and managed by the main/host research institution.



Which is best for me, RUI or ROA?

- ROA - must collaborate with another PI
 - ROA faculty might not have recent research record, or may be seeking new skills, exploring new areas
 - The activity might not involve students
 - Most likely takes place at the home institution of the NSF grantee, not the PUI, often only for a single summer
 - Maybe more helpful to PIs without prior NSF activity or developing institutional research support, could be a step to an RUI
- RUI – you are the PI
 - RUI PI is the awardee (could be collaborative)
 - RUI PI is likely to have some track record of independent research activity
 - Seeks to support a research program that most likely involves undergraduates
 - Takes place primarily at the home institution, over a typical 3 year duration
 - Maybe more helpful to experienced PIs or those with experienced institutional support



RUI and ROA

■ ROA

- Distinguishing features:
- Certificate of eligibility
- DOES NOT include Impact statement
- Tied to an NSF grantee

■ RUI

- Distinguishing features:
- Certificate of eligibility
- Includes RUI Impact Statement
- Titles begin “RUI:

Submit RUI/ROA general questions to: Ruira.mps@nsf.gov

Submit RUI/ROA specific questions to the relevant Program Director



Upcoming CHE Office Hours/Webinars

Aug. 7th, 4 PM – 5 PM EST

Topic, TBA

Submit general office hour questions to:

chemhighlights@nsf.gov

Send requests to be included in our

Chemistry Communications to:

CHEM-COMM@LISTSERV.NSF.GOV

