



AGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

10 Tips to Help You Get a Research Grant

Review these tips for writing and preparing your application.

The [AGA Research Scholar Award](#) application deadline is fast approaching (Sept. 8). Whether you are applying for this grant or other research funding opportunities, the following 10 tips will help you in developing a strong application.

1. Start early. Allow plenty of time to complete your application, give it multiple reviews and get feedback from others. Most applicants start working on the Specific Aims for the project six months in advance of the deadline.

2. Look at examples. Ask your division if there are any templates/prior grant submissions that you can review. There's no recipe for a successful grant, so the only way to compose one is to have a sense of what has worked in the past. In general, prior awardees are happy to share their applications if you contact them.

3. Request feedback. Ask mentors and colleagues for early feedback on your Specific Aims page. If it makes sense and is interesting to them, reviewers will likely feel the same way.

4. Ask your collaborators for letters of support. In addition to your preceptor, consider including letters of support from prior researchers that you have worked with or any collaborators for the current project, especially if they will help you with a new technique or reagents.

5. Contact the grants staff with questions and concerns early on. If you don't understand part of the application, aren't sure if you're eligible or are having problems with submission, contact the grant staff right away. Don't wait until the week or day the grant is due when staff may be flooded with calls. They can assist you much better with advance notice, which will allow you to avoid last-minute stress.

6. Each application should be different. Keep in mind the scope of the grant and amount of funding. Don't just recycle an R01-level application for a one-year AGA pilot award.

7. More is better than less when it comes to preliminary data. If your expertise in a technique you are proposing is established, you will not need to demonstrate the capability to do the work but will likely need to show preliminary data. If you are looking to build expertise (as a part of your career development), you may need to show that the infrastructure that enables you to do the work is accessible.



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8. Don't take constructive feedback personally. As you share your draft with mentors and colleagues for feedback, you may receive some unanticipated criticism. Try not to take this personally. If you can detach yourself emotionally, you'll be in a better position to answer critiques and make adjustments.

9. Remember your end goal: to help patients! Even the most basic science proposals are rooted in a clear potential to benefit patients.

10. Stay positive. If you do not succeed on your first application, believe in your work, make it better, and apply again.