

GRIT Program Outline

SESSION/ACTIVITY	SPECIFICATIONS	NOTES
1	Preliminary meeting with GRIT candidates	Meeting with GRIT program lead (Emma Perez-Costas, PhD) — to discuss program scope, overall research ideas, grant strategy, timeframes, mentors, collaborators or other identifiable needs to improve the chance of success.
2*	Prep-meeting for specific aims workshop	This is an optional activity offered for those who may need additional guidance prior to the specific aims presentation to a panel (this is recommended for K-group candidates).
3	Specific Aims Workshop	The GRIT candidate will present a preliminary version of their specific aims to a panel. A specific aims draft (as well as a candidate biosketch) should be developed and sent to the panel at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. This panel presentation will be via zoom, it will start with a brief presentation of the draft project idea by the GRIT candidate (no more than 15 minutes) leaving ample time for discussion and feedback from the panel.
4	Formal acceptance to GRIT	Feedback from the specific aims workshop panelists + assessment by GRIT leadership will facilitate the priority order for candidates to access the program and become part of the K or R cohorts. To maintain the quality of the program and provide adequate support, there is a limited number of openings for each cohort. Candidates who participated in the specific aims workshop but were not prioritized for a specific cohort will be invited to participate in the next cohort or in the next selection process (based on the specific aims workshop assessment).
5	Orientation	All newly enrolled GRIT scholars will participate in the orientation meeting as a group. This will allow the group to know each other and help foster networking among scholars who will be going through the process of grant planning, writing and submission with similar timelines.
6**	Weekly/bi-weekly group meetings with other scholars in group (K or R group)	These meetings have the purpose of: 1) building professional relationships among the members of the group; 2) provide relevant information on specific topics regarding grant development and presented by topic experts e.g. statistical and study design; career development plan and structure; how to plan and build the research plan; biosketches...etc.)
7**	1:1 meetings with each scholar (regularly scheduled) — beginning following Orientation	Goal/progress meetings (as needed) or email checkups; writing coaching—draft material prep for panels. These meetings will be held on a regular schedule driven by the scholar (e.g. biweekly or monthly as preferred). These meetings will occur throughout participation in the program and until grant submission.
8	BERD Consultation- Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design	Scholars will have the opportunity to set up a consultation with the BERD TEAM (https://www.uab.edu/ccts/research-commons/berd) to discuss study design prior to fully developing their research strategy. It is recommended that this consultation occur in the early stages of grant preparation after acceptance into the program.
9	Call with Program Officer	Once there is good definition on specific aims and statistic design is solid, we will work with the scholar to identify the most suitable Funding Opportunity and Program Officer Contact(s) at NIH. The scholar along with their primary mentor (K applicant) or alone (R-level), will schedule a call with the appropriate program officer.
10	Project Readiness Panel- CCTS Panels Done Quickly (PDQ)	A CCTS PDQ will be scheduled for preliminary assessment of the overall proposal — After incorporating feedback (from the specific aims workshop, mentors, GRIT program lead...etc) and BERD consultation, the GRIT scholar will be ready to develop a preliminary draft of their research proposal (and career development plan for those working on K applications). During the CCTS PDQ, a working draft of the proposal will be reviewed and discussed with a multidisciplinary peer group, bringing together expertise in fundamental, clinical and translational science, animal models, human subjects, informatics, biostatistics, evaluation, health disparities, outcomes, etc.
11*	Project Readiness Panel (PDQ) / Or Department of Medicine Panel (for those at DOM)	Scholars are encouraged to schedule a second panel to review their complete drafts 8-10 weeks ahead of submission.
12	Additional editing and communication as needed	Flexible (mostly via email)
13	Finalize writing/edits	Regular one-on-one checkups and/or e-mail correspondence will continue until grant submission.
14	1:1 Post submission critiques, discussion and next steps	After feedback from reviewers to strategize next steps — including support in response to JIT requests or response to reviewers prior to Council Meeting if requested by NIH.

Items delineated with * are optional activities

Items delineated with ** will occur over multiple sessions or weeks