

# iMERS

INTERACTIVE MENTORING TO  
ENHANCE RESEARCH SKILLS

*University of Kentucky*

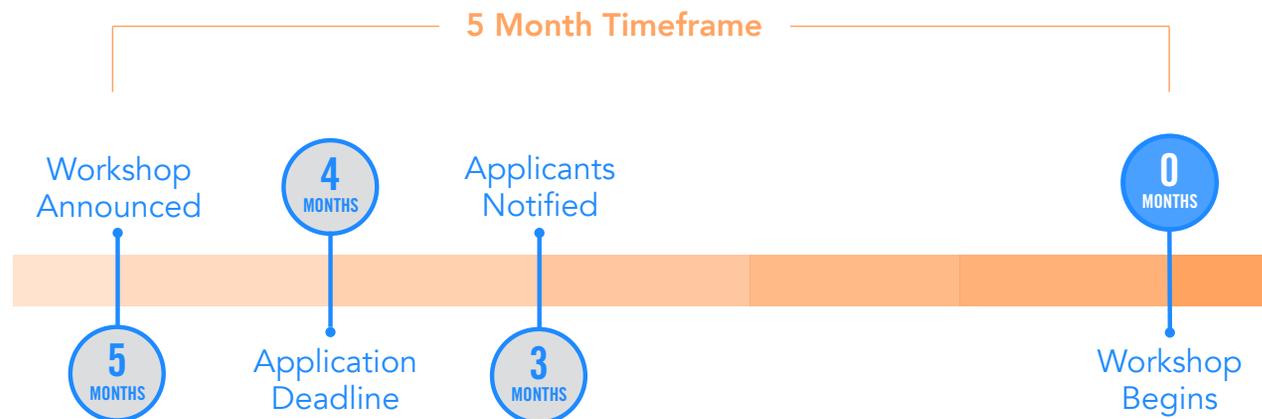
Visit our website  
or join our email  
list for notification  
of upcoming  
workshops.

## GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP ON UK CAMPUS

For faculty at Minority Serving Institutions who  
are advancing through the NIH funding process.

JOIN OUR LIST

Our most immersive grant writing workshop takes place on the University of Kentucky campus each spring and fall over three consecutive days. Successful applicants have an expense-paid opportunity to attend didactic lectures, participate in interactive exercises, and work with a faculty mentor for personalized support following the workshop.



#### Requirements

Candidates must be faculty members at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) to apply for this workshop. The overall focus is to help dedicated faculty refine their NIH grant application and make a compelling case for their research project. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to provide a Specific Aims draft and research summary paragraph when applying.

[About NIH Specific Aims >>](#)

#### When to Apply

The application process occurs twice a year for the spring and fall workshops. Each new workshop will have a submission deadline specified on the announcement.

#### How to Apply

You may apply online through the application portal on our website. If our deadline has passed or you're not currently ready to apply, consider joining our email list to receive advance notice of the next opportunity.

#### Evaluation Process

As our only workshop requiring an application process, iMERS leadership carefully evaluates each submission to select approximately 40 qualified candidates for this unique opportunity of extended training, airfare, lodging, and post-workshop mentoring. We will notify all applicants of the final decision three months before the workshop begins to allow ample time for those invited to make their travel arrangements.

*With regard to our evaluating applications, we are unable to provide individual critiques to applicants who are not selected for the workshop.*

# WHAT SETS OUR PROGRAM APART FROM OTHERS

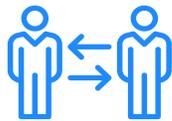
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## Receive Travel Award

For those invited to attend the workshop, an upfront travel award covers your flight and lodging costs, eliminating budget concerns and the need for a reimbursement process. Food and incidentals, however, will be the responsibility of each participant.

iMERS will secure a nearby, modern hotel for workshop attendees to stay and provide group transportation each day between the hotel and the University of Kentucky campus, which has convenient, state-of-the-art meeting facilities for the workshop venue.



## Engage With Colleagues & Experts

Our three-day workshop provides attendees the opportunity to immerse themselves in the NIH grant writing process with topic experts and like-minded colleagues. Building rapport and enduring relationships are encouraged through a collaborative and active learning approach. Presentations and conversations will be in-depth so you can follow through with your goals and apply the knowledge you gain to your specific research situation. See a sample agenda on [page 5](#).



## Work With A Mentor

Each attendee will be assigned a mentor with whom they will meet before the workshop's conclusion. Moving forward, you'll be able to discuss your scientific approach with a subject matter expert and get the support you need to finalize your submission. Having someone available to help articulate your idea within the NIH construct provides a distinct advantage over other first-time NIH applicants with whom you may be competing for funding.

Meet our iMERS team >>

Bluegrass Airport, with non-stop flights and connecting service, is located only minutes from downtown Lexington and the University of Kentucky campus.



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## MORE ABOUT US

### OUR CITY

## Lexington, KY

Nestled in the heart of Kentucky's famed scenic Bluegrass region, Lexington is known as the "Horse Capital of the World" and home to the state's flagship university. While surrounded by horse farms and acres of rolling manicured pasture land, the downtown area is surprisingly cosmopolitan. Our city boasts a wide variety of superb dining opportunities and unique shopping experiences along with art galleries, parks, theaters, business offices, and historic neighborhoods.

### OUR CAMPUS

## University of Kentucky

Celebrating 150 years of excellence in education, the University of Kentucky is currently ranked nationally in more than 90 academic programs. Located in Lexington, our campus comprises over 800 acres with an undergraduate enrollment of over 22,000.

Becoming one of the nation's leading public research institutions, we provide world-class education while focusing on research and outreach that will change lives for the people of Kentucky, the country, and the world.

### OUR PROGRAM

## iMERS

iMERS offers grant-writing guidance to faculty in Minority Serving Institutions to better compete for NIH funding to conduct their research. Our program is provided at no cost and includes virtual training, in-person workshops, and faculty mentoring to expedite understanding of a complex proposal process.

Located on the University of Kentucky campus, the iMERS program is made possible by the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences (NIGMS).

# SAMPLE AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES

The following pages provide an example of topics you can expect over the course of the grant writing workshop.



## DAY ONE

*Each day will include:*

- Introductions •*
- Breaks •*
- Lunch •*
- Q&A •*
- Evaluations •*

### **Using NIH Resources for Program Funding**

A discussion of NIH processes and resources, including a review of online databases such as RePORTER, to determine whether your project is appropriate for NIH funding and identifies relevant study sections for your grant application.

### **NIH Policy Updates – New Rules and New Processes**

This session provides an overview of new NIH policies and processes, emphasizing clinical trials and other policy updates impacting study design and proposal structure, content, and procedures.

### **Writing a High-Impact Specific Aims Page**

Learn best practices for structuring and maximizing the single page allowed for Specific Aims, with an interactive critique of an actual Specific Aims page.

### **Pre-Award Issues**

Gain a thorough understanding of policy and procedural issues that can impact proposal preparation.

### **Review Criteria: Focus on Significance, Investigator, Innovation, & Environment**

A dive into the Significance and Innovation sections of the NIH Research Strategy, with ideas for maximizing your proposal's unique features and scientific importance.

### **Review Criteria: Focus on Approach**

The presenter will provide an instructive overview of the Approach section within the NIH Research Strategy that covers essential scientific components, best practices, and writing strategies for clarity and flow.



MEET OUR TEAM

## DAY TWO

### **NIH Emphasis on Student Mentoring**

A presentation that focuses on mentoring students effectively and understanding what reviewers look for in a grant application.

### **Responsible Conduct of Research — Impact on NIH Grant Submissions**

This session will discuss how to ensure compliance with NIH RCR guidelines, emphasizing clinical and animal studies and examples of scientific misconduct to illustrate inappropriate actions and behavior.

### **The Latest Updates and Strategies for Constructing a Compelling NIH Biosketch**

Learn how to effectively use the NIH Biosketch (PI and co-investigators) to demonstrate your ability to carry out the proposed studies.

### **The NIH Proposal Review Process**

Understand the post-grant submission process — what happens and why. Learn about the criteria used for reviewing and scoring grants, discussing what happens at the review panel.

### **Navigating the NIH Resubmission Process**

Learn how to interpret the critiques of your grant application to prepare for resubmission, including the structuring of the “Introduction to Revised Application” page.

### **Investigator-Initiated R03 and R21 Funding Opportunities**

This session deals with the Parent/Investigator-initiated R03 and R21 grant mechanisms, the specific guidelines, and limitations. A funded researcher will also share comments and insights of her experiences with both of these opportunities.



## DAY THREE

*Join our email list to stay informed of upcoming iMERS events.*

JOIN OUR LIST

### **Hands-on Peer Review NIH Specific Aims**

Solicit peer input from fellow participants and iMERS faculty and staff to actively apply lessons learned from “Writing a High-Impact Specific Aims Page” to your Specific Aims page.

### **Rigor and Reproducibility: Current NIH Expectations & Practical Considerations**

Understand NIH requirements for Rigor and Reproducibility, including recommendations on Experimental Design and Data Analysis.

### **Data Analysis and Experimental Design**

Be able to list the basic design and data analysis components that reviewers are looking for within your grant application and understand how to present them.

### **Budget and Budget Justification**

This discussion will focus on how to build appropriate budgets and cost descriptions.

### **Mock Review Preview**

Learn the steps of submitting an NIH grant application and discuss the levels of review as you prepare to evaluate an actual NIH grant application via this Mock Review session.

### **Mock Review Study Section**

Emulate an NIH review panel to evaluate a recently submitted R01 proposal. Participants will discuss, score independently, then compare against the actual NIH review panel results for further discussion and analysis.

### **Individual Consultations**

An opportunity for participants to have one-on-one discussions with UK’s Professional Development Office (PDO) writing consultants and UK faculty with similar research interests.

Visit our website  
or join our email  
list for notification  
of upcoming  
workshops.

## iMERS

Located on the University of Kentucky campus and made possible by the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences (NIGMS).

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**Connect With Us:**



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