

**National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research
Concept Clearance for PAR
February 12, 2024**

**NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award
for Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) Research (F99/K00)**

Purpose: The purpose of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) Research (F99/K00) is to provide a supported pathway across career stages for outstanding graduate students in ELSI research. This two-phase award will facilitate completion of the doctoral dissertation and transition to an ELSI-related postdoctoral research position. Awards will support training and career development opportunities relevant for those interested in ELSI research careers.

[NIH fellowship opportunities](#) for graduate students are limited for those interested in ELSI research. NHGRI's current institutional training grants (T32) for [ELSI research](#) (i.e., Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania) focus on postdoctoral students. ELSI applications submitted under NIH's [PA-23-272](#), Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31), have the lowest funding success rate of all fellowship applications submitted for ELSI research.

Although graduate students with an interest in ELSI research careers can greatly benefit from multidisciplinary research training, it can be challenging to find departmental and institutional support. Given the relatively limited number of graduate programs actively engaged in ELSI research, predoctoral funding with support for postdoctoral transitions can benefit these students. The Parent F31 does not support career transitions.

The proposed ELSI F99/K00 complements the workforce diversity focus of NHGRI's [PAR-21-143](#), NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for a Diverse Genomics Workforce (F99/K00), which seeks to support outstanding graduate students from diverse backgrounds. Similar to the Genomics Workforce F99/K00, the ELSI F99/K00 highlights an important area for workforce development. The ELSI F99/K00 also is responsive to current interest – nearly all fellowship applications submitted for ELSI research in the last 10 years have been for predoctoral support.

The proposed ELSI F99/K00 fills a key gap in NHGRI's ELSI Research Program training portfolio and provides graduate students interested in pursuing ELSI research careers with a viable option for predoctoral funding and supported transition to a postdoctoral position. The ELSI F99/K00 would support research projects in any of the NHGRI ELSI Research Program's four [research areas](#). Approaches may include but are not limited to empirical qualitative and quantitative methods; conceptual, legal, and normative analyses; and applied research. Community engagement will be encouraged, but not required.

New or renewal/modified initiative: New

Mechanism of Support: F99/K00 with receipt dates in August, December, and April. Similar to [PAR-21-143](#), budgets for the F99 phase (up to 2 years) include stipends, tuition and fees, travel and institutional allowance. For the K00 phase (up to 3 years), budgets include salaries, fringe benefits, research and career development support, travel and indirect costs. Individuals may receive up to 5 years combined support for both phases.