



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty

FROM: Elizabeth Garrett  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Support for Institutional Pre-doctoral and Postdoctoral Training Grants

**Office of the Provost**

**Elizabeth Garrett**  
Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science  
and Public Policy

I am pleased to announce expanded support from the Office of the Provost to encourage the submission of new institutional training grants for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Institutional training grants (such as NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grants (T32); NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Programs (IGERTs); California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Training Programs) provide support for the education of pre-doctoral and postdoctoral scholars and align closely with USC's academic mission of ensuring that a diverse and highly trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles related to the nation's research agenda. For the student or scholar, being selected as a trainee not only provides financial support but also serves as an invaluable competitive honor for the trainee's career. For the institution, in addition to providing additional resources for research training, these grants provide prestige and visibility to the school, department and program.

Through the Office of the Vice President for Research, my office currently provides assistance with proposal planning, writing and submission of institutional training grants, and through the Office of the Executive Vice Provost, my office currently provides funding to academic units through the Block Grant Program in order to supplement the stipend of individual pre-doctoral fellowship winners.

University of  
Southern California  
3551 Trousdale  
Parkway  
Suite 102  
Los Angeles,  
California 90089-4019  
Tel: 213 740 2101  
Fax: 213 740 7606  
uscprovost@usc.edu  
www.usc.edu/  
admin/provost

However, the extramural funding provided in support of institutional training grants is often inadequate to provide a competitive stipend for the trainee, resources to manage the program, and incentives for the principal investigator to undertake the writing and oversight of the training. My office will consider requests for cost-share and matching funds necessary for securing and administering institutional training grants.

Requests for training grant support should be submitted by the principal investigator and include details about the training program being envisioned and the requested cost-share. Preference will be given to requests that have matching funds from schools, departments, or programs and in which the majority of the requested resources will be in the form of top-offs to stipends for the trainees. To submit a request or for additional information, please email Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick at [evp@usc.edu](mailto:evp@usc.edu).

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
Robert Abeles  
Al Checcio  
Todd Dickey  
Martha Harris  
Academic Deans