

Instructions for Application for an American Society of Nephrology Student Scholar Grant

January 2012

Questions? Contact ASN at grants@asn-online.org or (202) 640-4660.

Application Deadlines:

Friday, March 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. EST (for funding starting between May 1, 2012 and October 31, 2012)

Friday, September 14, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. EDT (for funding starting between November 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013)

Purpose

The purpose of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Student Scholar Grant is to enable medical students with an interest in either basic or clinical research to spend 10 to 52 weeks engaged in continuous full-time research in a nephrology lab. The student must work with a mentor that is a current ASN member. Students enrolled in MSTP programs (pursuing MD-PhDs) are not eligible for the program.

Eligibility

To apply for an ASN Student Scholar Grant, a candidate:

- 1) Must perform full-time research in a nephrology lab with a mentor that is a current ASN member.
- 2) Must be enrolled as a medical student in good standing at a US or Canadian medical school.
- 3) Cannot already have other sources of stipend support.

Applicants who are uncertain of his/her eligibility should request an advisory opinion from ASN before completing an application.

Program

ASN Student Scholar Grant recipients complete full-time research with an active ASN member in a nephrology lab. The project period can be a summer, semester, academic year, or any other 10-52 week period of continuous full-time research. A progress report is required at the end of research period.

Use of Grant Funds

Recipients receive \$500 per week. ASN Student Scholar grant funds can be used for:

- Salary: \$400 per week.
- Supplies and lab expenses: \$100 per week

Additionally, up to \$1,500 will be reimbursed to the student for travel-related expenses to attend the ASN Annual Meeting at Kidney Week.

Evaluation and Conditions of Appointment Selection

ASN Student Scholar Grants are to applicants who show exceptional ability and promise for a research career. The evaluation of an application will be based on the applicant's general qualifications, prior training, independence, and promise for productivity. Attention will be given to the quality and originality of the applicant's previous research and the scientific merit of the research proposed in the application.

After an award has been made, a change of sponsoring institution or primary mentor or a major change in the research plan requires prior approval for continuation of the grant. Students are expected to conduct research according to the highest scientific and ethical standards and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies regarding protection of human research subjects, humane care and use of laboratory animals, and laboratory safety.

Application Procedure

Before beginning the application (the application cannot be saved and must be completed in one sitting), have all materials available. If reference letter authors do not want to provide the reference letter, please have them email the letter to grants@asn-online.org. A placeholder document may be substituted instead.

- 1) Complete the Preliminary Questions
 - a. Please answer the following questions to determine eligibility.
 - i. Are you currently enrolled in a US or Canadian medical school?
 - ii. Will you be completing full-time research in a nephrology or renal lab?
 - iii. Is your mentor an ASN member?
- 2) Complete the basic information
 - a. Contact information and education information (dates and names of schools attended, degrees awarded, name and email of medical school dean).
 - b. Name of project and proposed project dates (must start and end on the same day of the week).
- 3) Enter name and ASN ID number of mentor.
- 4) Upload Project Proposal (PDF or Word format, limited to 1 MB).
 - a. The research plan should:
 - i. Be suitable for one to two semesters or summer experience with the possibility of being extended.
 - ii. Ask a specific and substantive question about basic biological processes, disease mechanisms or clinically-related issues in nephrology.
 - iii. Not be limited to working out details of methodology or a laboratory technique
 - iv. Be formulated with extensive discussion between the applicant and the proposed mentors to identify a research project: one that is up-to-date, instructive, and feasible for up to a year of research.

- v. Identify appropriate types of exposure to clinical nephrology that will be available to the student during the project period (these may include, but are not be limited to, Renal Grand Rounds, Journal Club, Biopsy Conferences, etc.)
- b. The proposal should be 3-6 pages long, single-spaced, with 11-point font.

***If the proposal file size exceeds the MB limitation, upload a placeholder instead and email proposal to grants@asn-online.org.

- 5) Upload CV or Resume (PDF or Word format, limited to 1 MB).
- 6) Upload Reference Letter from Mentor (PDF or Word format, limited to 1 MB).
 - a. The mentor must write a letter of support for the research project, and for the applicant to complete his/her project in his/her lab.
 - b. If the mentor prefers to send the letter his or herself, it can be e-mailed to grants@asn-online.org.
 - c. The letter should be on institutional letterhead and signed.
- 7) Upload External Reference Letter (PDF or Word format, limited to 1 MB).
 - a. A reference letter should be written by someone who can comment on the applicant's academic abilities and potential for a career in biomedical or clinical research.
 - b. If the mentor prefers to send the letter his or herself, it can be e-mailed to grants@asn-online.org.
 - c. The letter should be on institutional letterhead and signed.

IMPORTANT: The SSG application must be completed in one sitting. Please have all documents and information ready before beginning an application. If you are unable to complete the application after starting, the system will lock you out. In this event, please email grants@asn-online.org for assistance. If a mentor or reference is emailing his or her letter directly to ASN, please upload a **placeholder document** in order to complete the application.

Questions? Please contact grants@asn-online.org or (202) 640-4644.