# **Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan Instructions**

Each proposalthat requests funding to support **postdoctoral researchers**must upload a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals under “Mentoring Plan” in the supplementary documentation section of FastLane,

In no more than one page, the mentoring plan must describe the mentoring that will be provided to all postdoctoral researchers supported by the project, regardless of whether they reside at the submitting organization, any subrecipient organization, or at any organization participating in a simultaneously submitted collaborative proposal.

Proposers are advised that the mentoring plan must not be used to circumvent the 15-page Project Description limitation. See PAPPG [Chapter II.D.3](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg22_1/pappg_2.jsp#IID3) for additional information on collaborative proposals. Mentoring activities provided to postdoctoral researchers supported on the project will be evaluated under the Broader Impacts review criterion.

Examples of mentoring activities include, but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of grant proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices.

**If a Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan is required, FastLane will not permit submission of a proposal if the Plan is missing.**

## **Collaborative Proposals**

For purposes of meeting the mentoring requirement, simultaneously submitted collaborative proposals, and collaborative proposals that include subawards, constitute a single unified project. **Therefore, only one mentoring plan may be submitted for the entire project.**

## **Postdoctoral Researcher Functioning as Senior Personnel**

In situations where a postdoctoral researcher is listed in Section A of the NSF Budget, and is functioning in a Senior Personnel capacity (i.e., responsible for the scientific or technical direction of the project), a mentoring plan is not required.

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| Resources: |
| [National Science Foundation Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG),](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg22_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIC2j) NSF 22-1 - effective October 4, 2021 |
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