

Preparing for a K43 Application



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Outline

- Benefits of the K 43 Award
- Grant Application Key Required Sections
- 5 Strategic questions for K43 Application preparation
- General tips for preparing K43 Application

Benefits of K43 Grant Award

- Mentored Career Development and Research Award
- Supports LMICs' early and mid-career (junior faculty) researchers for 3- 5 years
- 75% protected time
- Salary per year for 75% effort & Research support
- Research Independence

Grant Application Key Required Sections

- Candidate
- Career Development Plan
- Research Plan
- Mentor, Co-Mentor, Consultant, Collaborators
- Environment & Institutional Commitment

5 Strategic questions for K43 Application preparation

The following 5 key strategic questions help in application preparation:

- Who? - Are you qualified?
- Why? - Any career gap and high priority LMIC health related research?
- When? - Appropriate time
- How? - Application procedure
- What? - Application content

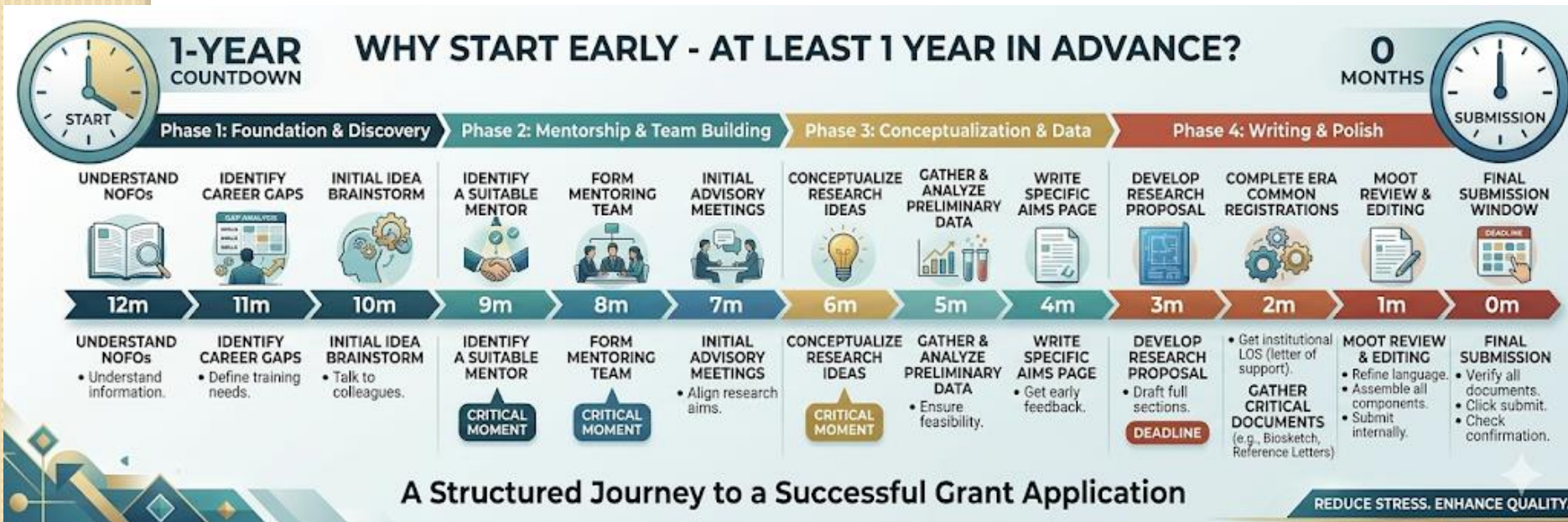
Key Strategies for Application preparation

Step 1a: When to Apply? - Time



Right time is when virtually all application documents are ready and eligibility requirements are met

Step 1b: Develop an Application work plan for preparation



Step 2a. How to Apply?

Table 1: Technical gateways to uploading documents (**The Hidden hurdles**)

Requirement	Purpose	Action Item
eRA Commons Account	Primary portal for NIH grants.	Contact your university's Signing Official (SO) to create a "PI Role" account. For mentors
ORCID iD	Unique researcher identifier.	Link your ORCID profile to your eRA Commons Personal Profile.
SAMS / UEI	Institutional identity.	Verify with your grants office that the university's registrations are active.
SciENcv	Document generation.	Use this tool to build your Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending Support .

[Visit NIH site: How to Apply – Application Guide](#)

Understand & Adhere to NOFO Application instructions

Eligibility and Review criteria

b) Core application components

Component	Responsibility	Key Focus
Candidate Section	You	Narrative of your background and your "need for training."
Career Development Plan	You & Mentor	A list of specific courses, skills, and workshops to bridge your "gaps."
Research Strategy	You	Specific Aims (1 pg) + Research Strategy (6-12 pgs). Must be scientifically rigorous.
Mentor's Statement	Primary US Mentor LMIC mentor Note the above	Detailed plan of how they will supervise you and provide resources.
Reference Letters	Referees (3-5)	Independent assessment of your potential (submitted directly to NIH).
Institutional Support	Dept. Chair	A letter guaranteeing 75% protected time for research.
DMS Plan	You	Two-page plan for Data Management and Sharing (New 2026 standard).

*Submission is through ASSIST: Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking)

*Ensure adherence to the above

Step 3: What to write?

Component	Key Requirements
Candidate Section	Your background, career goals, and justification for why you need <i>this</i> specific training to become independent.
Career Development Plan	A detailed "syllabus" of courses, workshops, and mentored activities. It must address your specific "career gaps."
Research Strategy Specific Aims (1 page) + Research Strategy (6–12 pages).	Must be scientifically sound and be a vehicle for your training. It should address the review criteria in NOFO
Mentoring Statement	A critical letter from your Primary Mentor (and co-mentors) detailing their commitment and your oversight.

*Write clear, lucid, smart and comprehensible proposal to sustain the interest and attention of your reviewers

*Before submission, share with colleagues, mentors and discuss with previous K awardees etc for constructive feedback

General tips for preparing a K43 Application

- **Start early**
- Read and familiarize with eligibility and review criteria in NOFO
- Self-appraise to identify gaps to fill
- Contact NIH Programme officer
- Develop & adhere to your Application work plan & timelines
- Registration & submission platforms
- Identify suitable and experienced mentors early
- Conceptualizing research ideas
- Develop a LMIC priority health-related research proposal
- Generate Preliminary data early
- Write application with mentors' input
- Collect all application documents e.g references, LOS etc early
- Create file checklist and note page numbers
- Review and share application write up with colleagues
- **Submit ahead of Deadline- Avoid Technical hitch**

Conclusion Quote

- *‘Mentoring is indispensable for growth, skills and experience are shared, and work is re-examined critically’- Jim Norman*
- *The K-43 award provides funding for Mentored career Development to solve critical health challenges in LMICs and develop junior faculty into Independent Researcher*

Resources

- [How to Apply – Application Guide | Grants & Funding](#)



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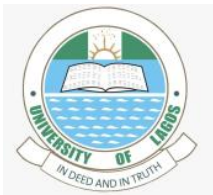
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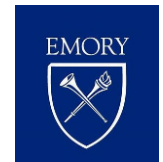
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Thank you for your Attention

