

POSTDOCTORAL STIPEND POLICY

The NIH has released the new Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) stipend levels for FY 2021. Here is a link to the NIH announcement: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-049.html>

Please note that the BPP policy stipulates that postdoc stipends should be brought to the correct and current level **at the time of reappointment**. All BPP Postdocs appointed or re-appointed **on or after March 1, 2021** should receive these new stipend levels.

Initial appointments should be at the NRSA level commensurate with their prior postdoctoral research experience; however, the **mandated minimum level** for the first year of postdoctoral experience **at Penn** is the **current** year “0” (zero) level. For each additional year of postdoctoral experience at Penn, the postdoctoral trainee’s stipend must increase according to the NRSA levels up to level 04.

It is important remember that these mandated stipend levels represent minimums and stipend levels appropriate to prior postdoctoral research experience at other institutions should be awarded following the current NRSA scale up to the maximum, which is attained in year 07.

Career Level	Years of Experience	Stipend for FY 2021	Monthly Stipend
Postdoctoral	0	\$53,760	\$4,480
	1	\$54,144	\$4,512
	2	\$54,540	\$4,545
	3	\$56,712	\$4,726
	4	\$58,608	\$4,884
	5	\$60,780	\$5,065
	6	\$63,036	\$5,253
	7 or More	\$65,292	\$5,441

FY 2021 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipend Levels

Postdoctoral Trainees and Fellows: For institutional training grants, (T32, T90, TL1) and individual fellowships (F32), the stipend level for the entire first year of support is determined by the number of full years of relevant postdoctoral experience when the award is issued. Relevant experience may include research experience (including industrial), teaching assistantship, internship, residency, clinical duties, or other time spent in a health-related field beyond that of the qualifying doctoral degree. Once the appropriate stipend level has been determined, the trainee or fellow must be paid

at that level for the entire grant year. The stipend for each additional year of Kirschstein-NRSA support is the next level in the stipend structure and does not change mid-year.