



PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION:

General Grants

New Investigator Grants

[Athletic Training Education and Practice Grants](#)

[Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society Foundation \(PFATS
Foundation\) Special Request for Proposals](#)

Dear Prospective NATA Foundation Grant Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the NATA Research & Education Foundation Professional Grant Program. The NATA Foundation leadership is pleased to offer a program that offers financial support for research. We are excited about the tremendous potential for growth in our profession that will come from your efforts. As you read the attached information, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the process.

Each year, the NATA Foundation provides funds for exceptional research projects submitted to the Professional Research Grant Program. Grant proposal applications for any category (e.g., General, New Investigator, any active Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that have been issued) in this program are solicited through a pre-proposal process. Current funding amounts for the 2025-2026 grant cycle are as follows:

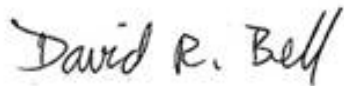
Proposal Category	Total Cost Limit (Direct + Indirect Costs)	Indirect Cost Rate	Study Period
General	\$50,000	10%	3 years
New Investigator	\$20,000	10%	3 years
Athletic Training Education and Practice Grants	\$20,000	10%	3 years
PFATS Foundation Special RFP	\$20,000	10%	3 years

This grant program is highly competitive. The acceptance rate for pre-proposals is approximately 50% and the funding rate for full proposals is approximately 15%.

Information and guidelines for grant application submissions in any category are available on the [NATA Foundation website](#) or you may contact Kathryn LaLonde at the NATA Foundation office at kathrynl@nata.org. If you prefer, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

We look forward to your participation in our grant program! Good luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,



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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Introduction

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Research & Education Foundation provides financial support for exceptional research that advances the knowledge base for the practice of athletic training. Specific questions regarding the application or review process should be directed to the NATA Foundation Research Committee Chair (see cover letter for contact information). Funding for work already in progress will not be considered.

Who May Submit a Proposal?

General, Athletic Training Education and Practice Grants, PFATS Foundation Special RFP Grant Categories:

Any health care professional, researcher, or educator may apply for a research grant. However either the Primary Investigator, or Co-Primary Investigator must be a BOC certified athletic trainer, a member of the NATA, and hold an NPI number.

New Investigator Grant Category:

Principal Investigator (PI) must be a current NATA member and BOC certified athletic trainer in good standing, and hold an NPI number.

PI has not received a single research/project grant greater than \$50,000 (total costs) (PI or Co-PI) (If you have questions about your eligibility then contact the chair of the research committee).

PI must hold the academic rank no higher than assistant professor at the time of original submission or re-submission.

When to Submit a Proposal?

The submission and review process for the Professional Research Grant Program has two main steps. First, a pre-proposal must be submitted for review (see [Pre-Proposal Instructions](#)). Applicants should receive the results of this review within six-eight weeks after the pre-proposal is received. Pre-Proposal Applications open August 1 and close September 1 each year. Applicants with approved pre-proposals are invited to submit full proposals (see [Proposal Instructions](#)).

The Professional Research Grant Program has one cycle ending February 15. All full proposals received by that date will be reviewed as a group in April or May.

Indirect Cost Policy

Grant monies may be used to pay indirect (overhead) costs. The NATA Foundation will pay up to 10% of the total direct costs of the project as indirect costs for an professional level categories.

Obligations

The Principal Investigator(s) of NATA Foundation-funded projects must:

1. Assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination while receiving assistance from the NATA Foundation.
2. Submit an abstract from the funded project to the NATA Annual Meeting or NATA Athletic Training Educators Conference within 1 year of submission of the final report. A Co-Principal Investigator (identified as such in the original grant application) may present, with prior approval of the Research Committee Chair.

3. Ensure that any agency associated with the conduct of the project will subscribe to and adhere to the guidelines for nondiscrimination, reporting obligations and use of funds associated with this award.
4. Submit a formal written request to the NATA Foundation for any proposed modifications to the original application, and ensure that written approval is granted by the NATA Foundation, prior to implementation of any such proposed modifications. See the NATA Foundation website for the modification request form.
5. Submit reports to the NATA Foundation, as stipulated in the Grant Award Contract.

PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

(Required for all NATA Foundation Professional Research Grant Program Applications)

The NATA Foundation requires investigators interested in submitting a grant application to the NATA Foundation Professional Research Grant Program to first submit a “pre-proposal.” Please note that applicants to the NATA Foundation’s Student Grant Program do not need to submit a pre-proposal.

The purpose of the pre-proposal is to optimize the time invested by investigators and by the NATA Foundation Research Committee in writing and reviewing grant proposals, respectively. The pre-proposal allows the Research Committee to evaluate whether or not the proposed research project is a potential candidate for funding. Based on this evaluation, the committee either extends an invitation for the submission of a full proposal or indicates that the proposed project is not of interest. An invitation to submit a full proposal does not imply a commitment to funding. It does, however, indicate that the general approach to be taken to achieve the aim(s) is appropriate to achieve the project’s objective(s) and a level of enthusiasm for the proposed research in an area of potential importance to the NATA Foundation so as to warrant a full application.

After a pre-proposal is accepted, the author must submit a full proposal by the February 15 application deadline. Requests to extend this timeline may be considered under special circumstances. Failure to submit a full proposal in the same grant cycle will require that a new pre-proposal be submitted. Any commitment to funding may occur only after a detailed review of the full proposal by the Research Committee and formal approval of the project by the NATA Foundation Board of Directors. If the proposed project is not of interest to the NATA Foundation, the committee will provide a brief notice indicating the general reason(s) for this decision. Due to the large volume of pre-proposals submitted, detailed feedback will not be provided.

FULL PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

The NATA Foundation Research Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending funding of research proposals to the NATA Foundation Board of Directors. Review panels are comprised of NATA members and subject matter experts from other professions. The general procedure for review is as follows:

1. The NATA Foundation Research Committee Chair and Vice Chair for Grants will screen applications for completeness and adherence to application guidelines, and prepare them for distribution to designated review panel members. Proposals not following the application instructions will be returned to the investigator without review.
2. The review panel for each proposal will consist of one Research Committee member and up to three additional content expert reviewers. Evaluation will be based on the quality of the application, the study’s potential impact on the athletic training profession and the application’s scientific merit.

3. The NATA Foundation Research Committee meets annually to rank grant applications that have been reviewed and recommends exceptional proposals to the NATA Foundation Board of Directors for funding.

The review process is conducted for each individual proposal and includes evaluation of the general merits of the proposal without regard to any quotas. Reviewers provide an overall impact score for the proposal as well as scores for the following five primary criteria: Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, and Environment. Details about these criteria are presented in the Professional Research Grant Program Instructions.

Notification of Award

In late July, the Research Committee Chair will send letters to all principal investigators indicating the outcomes of their proposal(s). If approved, a check will be sent to the sponsoring institution's grants and contracts office after the grant award contract has been fully executed and processed. For single year grants, the total is sent at one time. For multi-year grants, funds are sent annually.