

Frequently Asked Questions for ABTA Research Grants and Fellowships

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I. Funding Opportunities

I'd like to apply for an ABTA grant. Where can I find more information on submitting an application?

Thank you for your interest in the ABTA's research funding. Please visit the Brain Tumor Research section of our website – <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information regarding funding opportunities, deadlines, and anticipated RFA release dates.

What is the deadline for application submissions?

General timelines for submission deadlines are outlined in the table below. Actual deadlines will be posted at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> when the opportunities become available.

Please note: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Letters of Intent for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants and Basic Research Fellowships will not be accepted in 2020. The ABTA hopes to offer both opportunities in the fall of 2021 for the 2022 grant cycle.

	Frequency	LOI Due	Application Due
Basic Research Fellowship	Annual*	Early December	Mid- to Late March
Discovery Grant	Annual	Early December	Mid- to Late March
Research Collaboration Grant	Biennial	Early December	Mid- to Late March
Medical Student Summer Fellowship	Annual	N/A	Mid-January

Can I get an extension on the deadline?

As stated in the Request for Applications (RFA), applicants are strongly encouraged to complete applications with sufficient time to allow for technical difficulties, time zone differences, illness, travel, etc. It is ABTA's policy not to accept late applications. If you miss the deadline, we encourage you to look for future grant opportunities on our website at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>.

May I apply for more than one ABTA grant?

Applicants may submit only one application per grant mechanism each grant cycle; however, applicants may submit applications to more than one ABTA grant mechanism in a grant cycle, should they fit the eligibility criteria for each mechanism.

Please note: each applicant will only be awarded one ABTA grant per grant cycle.

May I apply for a second ABTA grant while holding a currently-funded ABTA grant?

ABTA grantees can hold only one ABTA grant at a time. Current ABTA grantees may apply for an additional ABTA grant; however, if a second grant is awarded and the grant terms would overlap, applicants would have to terminate the existing grant in order to accept the new grant.

May I use an application from a previous year?

ABTA does not distinguish resubmissions from new applications. Applicants may submit any previously submitted, non-funded applications; however, they will be reviewed as new applications.

Please note: applications that are not responsive to the current year RFA will be administratively withdrawn.

My LOI was approved and I will submit a Full Application. Do I need to get new Letters of Support for my Full Application?

The ABTA will accept Letter of Support from mentors and the Institution that are submitted with the LOI, for the Full Application. Applicants are encouraged to consider carefully whether the content of the letters is still accurate or if additional information is needed. Applicants should note that application attachments from the LOI, including letters of support, will not be automatically carried into the Full Application and will have to be uploaded again before submitting a Full Application.

Can indirect costs be charged to an ABTA grant or fellowship?

No, indirect costs are not allowed expenses for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants, Basic Research Fellowships, Discovery Grants, or Medical Student Summer Fellowships.

Can you tell me when the funding decisions will be released?

Funding decisions are announced in late July for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants, Discovery Grants, and Basic Research Fellowships. Medical Student Summer Fellowships will be announced in early May. Applicants will be notified by email.

How many grant applications did ABTA receive last cycle? Where did my application rank?

ABTA does not provide specific information related to the funding rate, ranking or number of applications received for any mechanism. Final allocations of funding for research are based on available funds, and we are committed to funding as many meritorious research grants as possible. A listing of our currently funded research grants is available at www.abta.org/research/research-funding-impact/.

I am not a U.S. citizen. Am I eligible for an ABTA research grant?

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents to apply for an ABTA research grant.

Can I appeal the funding decision?

Each application is rigorously reviewed by a committee of scientific experts, and it is our policy not to re-review proposals. If your proposal is not funded in this grant cycle, we encourage you to look for future grant opportunities at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>.

How do I become a reviewer?

Thank you for your interest in being a scientific reviewer for the ABTA. We are always open to adding new reviewers to our panels. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please contact the ABTA Research Programs by email at grants@abta.org. Please include an updated biosketch and link to your institutional profile or lab webpage.

II. Discovery Grants

What are Discovery Grants?

Discovery Grants are one-year, \$50,000 grants for high-risk/high-impact projects deemed to have the potential to change current diagnostic or treatment paradigms for adult and pediatric brain tumor care.

How do I apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant?

Applications for Discovery Grants are pre-screened by a Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. The ABTA grant application portal opens in early November. Discovery Grant LOIs are due in early December. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

Invitations to submit a full application will be extended by e-mail in February and will include application instructions. If you receive an invitation and will not be submitting a full application, please notify us at grants@abta.org.

How do I apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Discovery Grants. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle if you meet the eligibility criteria.

Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or residents and can be conducting research at a non-profit, non-governmental research institution anywhere in the world.

Do I need to have a faculty position to apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant?

Applicants do not need to be in a faculty position at the time of application; however, applicants who do not have a full-time faculty position must include a signed offer letter with their Full Application, which includes a start date no later than the start of the grant term. Applicants cannot have held a full-time faculty appointment for more than ten years at the start of the grant term. The Letter of Support (LOS) from the Institution should confirm the position held by the Applicant.

My institution is not an academic institution and does not have faculty positions, am I eligible to apply for a Discovery Grant?

Researchers who hold a doctoral degree, hold a position that is equivalent to a faculty position such as the head of a laboratory or group, and have not been the head of the laboratory for more than ten years at the start of the grant term, are eligible to apply for Discovery Grants, provided that they and their institution meet all the other eligibility criteria. The Letter of Support from the institution (department head) should confirm that the position held is equivalent to a faculty position.

III. Basic Research Fellowships

Please Note: The ABTA is unable to accept Letters of Intent for the Basic Research Fellowships in 2020 for the 2021 grant cycle.

What is the Basic Research Fellowship?

The Basic Research Fellowships are two-year, \$100,000 grants supporting postdoctoral fellows entering careers dedicated to the field of brain tumor research. By providing funding to fellows under the guidance of a mentor, ABTA hopes to ensure that a diverse pool of well-trained scientists remain in the field and emerge as the next generation of scientists leading the field of brain tumor research.

How do I apply for a Basic Research Fellowship?

Applications for Basic Research Fellowships are pre-screened by Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. The ABTA grant application portal opens in November. Basic Research Fellowship LOIs are due in early December. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

Invitations to submit a full application will be extended by e-mail in February and will include application instructions. If you receive an invitation and will not be submitting a full application, please notify us at grants@abta.org.

How do I apply for an ABTA Basic Research Fellowship if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Basic Research Fellowships. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle if you meet the eligibility criteria.

My PhD will not be conferred by the time of application, but my coursework will be complete. Am I eligible for an ABTA Basic Research Fellowship?

Applicants must have their doctorate conferred no later than the Letter of Intent submission deadline (early December).

I have a doctoral degree, but I have not started my postdoctoral position. Am I eligible to apply for the ABTA Basic Research Fellowship?

Applicants who are not yet at their mentor's institution are eligible to apply provided that they will be starting their position at their mentor's institution no later than the Full Application deadline (usually in March) and that they meet all other eligibility criteria. Please refer to the Request for Applications in the year that you are applying for more information.

May I apply for a one-year Basic Research Fellowship?

The Basic Research Fellowships are training grants intended to provide a two-year experience. Therefore, one-year fellowships are not awarded.

May I have two Fellowship mentors?

Basic Research Fellowships allow for up to two mentors to be included in the application. One mentor must serve as the Lead Mentor, be at the same institution as the applicant and conduct brain tumor research. A single Co-Mentor is optional for all Basic Research Fellowship applicants. Each mentor must submit a Letter of Support and a biosketch as part of the Letter of Intent submission. Please refer to the Request for Applications for additional information.

Can my mentor or other lab members take salary support from an ABTA Fellowship?

No, salary support for personnel other than the Applicant/PI is not allowed for ABTA Basic Research Fellowships.

Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or residents and can be conducting research at a non-profit, non-governmental research institution anywhere in the world.

IV. ABTA Research Collaboration Grants

Please Note: The ABTA is unable to accept Letters of Intent for the Research Collaboration Grants in 2020 for the 2021 funding cycle.

What are ABTA Research Collaboration Grants?

ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are two-year, \$200,000 grants and are intended to promote team science in a way that will streamline and accelerate progress and effect the desired change in clinical outcome for brain tumors. The research projects under this mechanism must be conducted by a team of two co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) from distinct institutions.

How do I apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

Please note: ABTA Research Collaboration Grant Request for Applications (RFAs) are typically posted every other year.

Applications for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are pre-screened by Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. When offered, ABTA Research Collaboration Grant RFAs are posted in November and LOIs are due in early December. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

How do I apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle in which ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are offered should you meet the eligibility criteria.

Can Co-PIs from the same institution apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are intended for inter-institutional collaborations only. Therefore, Co-PIs must be from two distinct institutions.

Which institution should be designated as the Lead Institution when applying for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

The Lead Institution is the Institution where the Lead PI has a faculty position. The Lead Institution must be a non-profit, non-governmental institution in the U.S. and must agree to adhere to ABTA's Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships, located at the top of the ABTA Grant Opportunities page (<https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>). The

Lead Institution will serve as the administrator of the Grant funds and will hold responsibility for the management of the budget and submission of all required documents and reports.

Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents. However, the Lead PI must have a full-time faculty appointment at an institution in the United States or Canada. Co-PIs may have appointments at non-profit, non-governmental institutions anywhere in the world.

Do I need to have a faculty position to apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

Applicants do not need to be in a faculty position at the time of application; however, applicants who do not have a full-time faculty position must include a signed offer letter with their Full Application, which includes a start date no later than the start of the grant term. Applicants cannot have held a full-time faculty appointment for more than ten years at the start of the grant term. The Letter of Support (LOS) from the Institution should confirm the position held by the applicant.

My institution is not an academic institution and does not have faculty positions. Am I eligible to apply for a Research Collaboration Grant?

Researchers who conduct their research at a non-academic research institution, but hold a doctoral degree, hold (or will hold at the start of the grant term) a position that is equivalent to a faculty position such as the head of a laboratory or group, and have not been the head of the laboratory for more than ten years at the start of the grant term, are eligible to apply for Research Collaboration Grants, provided that they and their institution meet all the other eligibility criteria. The Letter of Support from the institution (department head) should confirm that the position held is equivalent to a faculty position.

V. Medical Student Summer Fellowships

What are the Medical Student Summer Fellowships?

The Medical Student Summer Fellowships are \$3,000 grants to current medical students wishing to spend a summer conducting brain tumor research with an established scientist-mentor. The intent of this mechanism is to motivate talented medical students to pursue a career in neuro-oncology research. Medical Student Summer Fellowship applications are due in mid-January. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

May I have two Medical Student Summer Fellowship mentors?

Medical Student Summer Fellowships allow for up to two mentors to be included in the application. One mentor must serve as the Lead Mentor, be located at the institution where the medical student will conduct the research project and currently conduct brain tumor research. A Co-Mentor is optional for all applicants. Each mentor must submit a Letter of Support and a biosketch. Please refer to the Request for Applications for additional information.

Will the ABTA pair me with a mentor in the brain tumor field for the Medical Student Summer Fellowship?

No, applicants must seek out a mentor in the brain tumor field on their own. Students interested in applying are encouraged to seek out a mentor early in order to develop the project proposal and gather all required documents in advance of the submission deadline.

Can my Lead Mentor's lab be at a separate institution from my Medical School?

Medical Student Summer Fellowships are intended to give medical students the opportunity to conduct research in a laboratory under the guidance of a brain tumor research mentor. Therefore, the medical student is allowed to travel to another institution where the Lead Mentor is conducting brain tumor research and is not required to stay at the institution where they attend medical school.

Can my mentor take salary support from an ABTA Medical Student Summer Fellowship?

No, salary support for personnel other than the Applicant/PI is not allowed for Medical Student Summer Fellowships.

Can the funding be used for supplies or for attending a meeting?

Funds may be used to buy supplies for the project and can be used to attend a scientific meeting, during the grant term, for the purposes of presenting findings or career development.

Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents. However, the institution where the research is being conducted (referred to as the Lead Institution) must be an institution in the United States or Canada.