NCI ESI Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) R37 Award Extension Process

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on behalf of the NCI ESI Activities Committee
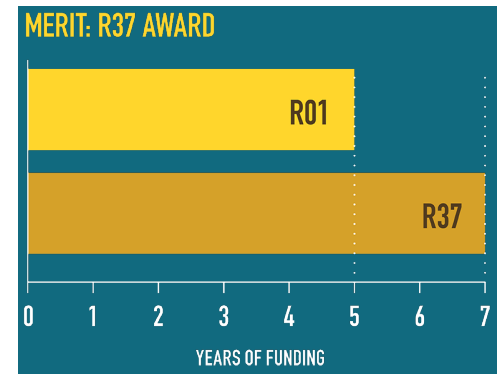
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NCI ESI MERIT Awards (R37)
Guide Notice: NOT-CA-18-037, January 2018

- NCI issued ESI MERIT Awards beginning FY18

  o **Longer-term grant** support for ESIs (up to 7 years)

  o Flexibility and opportunity for **creativity and innovation**

  o Additional time to **successfully launch careers** as early stage faculty

  o **Enhance number of publications and productivity** before R01 renewal application and increased flexibility to stagger awards

- ESI R01 applications that are percentiled and score within the EI/NI payline are converted to R37 awards that are eligible for 2-year extensions, following an expedited NCI administrative review of accomplishments during the initial funding segment.

ESI MERIT Award Extension <u>Request</u> Process
Communication

- NCI Program Officials (POs) are the point of contact.

- Extension request deadlines and requirements will be indicated in the R37 Notice of Award (NoA).

  - *Direct reminder email communications from Office of Grants Administration (OGA) are currently being sent to the PI and Authorized Organization Representative (AOR).*

- Requests must be submitted via email to NCIOGAProgressReports@mail.nih.gov and to the PO.

- All requests will be for a **2-year extension** of the award (not to exceed 7 years total)

Request and Evaluation Deadlines Per NCAB Round

Submission Cycle (start dates)	Due Date of R37 Extension Request (of penultimate R37 year)	Due Date of PO Evaluation to the DOC director (of penultimate R37 year)	NCAB Date (of penultimate R37 year)
Cycle 1 (Dec – Mar)	July 1	August 1	September
Cycle 2 (Apr – June)	November 1	December 1	February
Cycle 3 (July – Sept 30)	March 1	April 1	June

Example:

A grant project period cycles April 1 (R37 ends March 31, 2023).

The ESI MERIT Award extension request is due Nov 1, 2021.

The request is reviewed by NCAB in Feb 2022.

July 2022, Nov 2022, & Mar 2023 are the most common extension request deadlines for this group of R37 recipients.

Check with your PO and/or GMS if you have questions about your receipt date.

ESI MERIT Award Extension <u>Request</u> Process
Components to include (PHS 398 Forms)*

1. Face page signed by AOR.

2. Specific Aims page from the initial grant application (1-page maximum).

3. Research Strategy section (5-pages maximum).

   a. Progress Report

   b. Research Plan for the 2-year extension period

      i. Include any updated specific aims/objectives for the extension period.

      ii. Explain how the plan falls within scope† of the parent grant and represents a logical extension of the original aims.

4. Budget (modular or categorical as appropriate) that can be requested will be indicated on the penultimate year Notice of Award. Questions about the budget cap should be directed to the NCI Grants Management Specialist (GMS) assigned to the award.

ESI MERIT Award Extension <u>Request</u> Process
Components to include, continued.

5. Updated human subjects and/or vertebrate animals sections if changes from the current project period are proposed. If there are no changes, then include a statement to indicate that there are no changes to human subjects and/or vertebrate animals.

6. A separate list of the following items since the original date of the ESI MERIT Award:
   a. all grant-related publications (published and submitted);
   b. presentations at national and international meetings;
   c. resource and data sharing, if applicable.

7. myNCBI award compliance report documenting publication compliance with the NIH public access policy.

8. Other Support.

ESI MERIT Award Extension <u>Review</u> Process
PO Review

- The PO will conduct an administrative review of the extension request and develop a recommendation for NCAB.

- The review criteria include:

  - Evaluation of whether the extension request is within scope of the parent award and continues to be in an area of scientific importance or promise to the NCI.

  - Timeliness and significance of the research.

  - Productivity of the applicant and progress made during the current award period.

ESI MERIT Award Extension Award Process

Extension request is approved

PO notifies the PI and AOR

NoAs will be issued to award the 1st and 2nd extension year

Digital Communication About the Process with PIs and POs

NCI webpage – https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/grants-funding/funding-opportunities/merit)

Be sure to check the NCI MERIT Award Webpage before submission to ensure that the most current guidelines are being followed.

Thank you:
NCI ESI Activities Committee