

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This document contains Frequently Asked Questions about the NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum. Please send an email to nsferaforum@nsf.gov if you have additional questions regarding the forum.

About the NSF ERA Forum

1. What is the purpose of the ERA Forum?

The purpose of the Forum is to engage the community on modernizing the proposal preparation and submission process, solicit volunteers for upcoming activities requiring user input, present solutions to the user community, and identify future topics of interest.

2. How many forums will be conducted?

NSF expects to conduct two-to-three forums per year and also envisions having additional *ad hoc* interactions with the user community through usability sessions, interviews and focus groups.

3. What can I expect in future forums?

NSF will engage the community on topics such as Proposal Submission Modernization activities as well as topics of interest submitted by the user community.

4. How can I submit topics of interest to the forum?

Please send an email to nsferaforum@nsf.gov with “Topics of Interest” in the subject line.

Engaging with the NSF ERA Forum

5. How do I sign up for a future forum?

Send an email to NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov using “Subscribe” in the subject line. Subscribing to our listserv would signal your interests in participating in our forum and upcoming activities.

6. What is the typical forum format?

Attendees can connect via WebEx, engage with NSF about forum topics, view a demo, submit questions and comments, and obtain live responses.

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7. How can I engage with the forum?

Send an email to nsferaforum@nsf.gov or subscribe to the forum listserv. Throughout the year, you will also be given the opportunity to participate in various activities including usability sessions, interviews and focus groups. Please indicate if you have any specific interests.

8. How can I get informed about upcoming volunteering opportunities?

Relevant events will be distributed to previous forum participants and listserv subscribers. Participation is voluntary and feedback will remain confidential. Additionally, we will post relevant announcements on the DIAS/Policy Office website: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp.

9. Will you archive forum webinars for on-demand viewing?

The NSF ERA Forum team is looking into this capability and will inform the community about the feasibility of providing on-demand webinars.

10. How does NSF plan to leverage input provided by the user community?

The NSF ERA Forum team reviews and analyzes questions, comments and issues raised by the user community for consideration and incorporation into the various IT modernization efforts that are currently being planned or implemented at NSF.

Forum Topics presented

11. What is the purpose of NSF's Proposal Submission Modernization initiative, the main discussion topic during the first NSF ERA Forum?

The Proposal Submission Modernization (PSM) initiative is a multi-year effort to modernize the proposal preparation and submission process currently managed via FastLane. PSM aims to address a number of internal and external objectives, including the need to be responsive to the administrative burden associated with the proposal preparation process.