



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)
International Research Terms and Conditions (IRTC)
Effective February 1, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Subject
1.	Awardee Responsibilities
2.	Prior Approval Requirements
3.	Pre-Award Costs
4.	Extensions to Award Period
5.	Consultant Services
6.	Equipment
7.	Participant Support Costs
8.	Significant Project Changes
a.	Transfer of the Project Effort (Subawards)
b.	Change in Objectives or Scope
c.	Absence or Change of Principal Investigator
9.	Travel
10.	Rearrangements and Alterations
11.	Allowable Costs
12.	Payments
13.	Continuing Grants
14.	Project Reporting Requirements
15.	Expenditure Reports
16.	Responsible Conduct of Research
17.	Information Collection
18.	Copyrightable Material
19.	Program Income
20.	Publications
21.	Patent Rights
22.	Cost-Sharing and Cost-Sharing Records
23.	Audit and Records
24.	Site Visits
25.	Suspension or Termination
26.	Termination Review Procedure
27.	Human Research Subjects
28.	Animal Welfare
29.	Trafficking in Persons
30.	Research Involving Recombinant DNA Research Outside the U.S.
31.	Resolution of Conflicting Conditions

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 32. Liability
- 33. Sharing of Findings, Data, and Other Research Products
- 34. Government Permits and Activities Carried On Outside the U.S.

1. Awardee Responsibilities

a. The awardee has full responsibility for the conduct of the project or activity supported under this award and for adherence to the award conditions. Although the awardee is encouraged to seek the advice and opinion of NSF on special problems that may arise, such advice does not diminish the awardee's responsibility for making sound scientific and administrative judgments and should not imply that the responsibility for operating decisions has shifted to NSF. The awardee is responsible for notifying NSF about: (1) any allegation of research misconduct that it concludes has substance and requires an investigation in accordance with NSF misconduct regulations published at 45 CFR 689; or (2) any significant problems relating to the administrative or financial aspects of the award.

b. By acceptance of this award, the awardee agrees to comply with these International Research Terms and Conditions for grants and cooperative agreements and to the prudent management of all expenditures and actions affecting the award. Documentation for each expenditure or action affecting this award must reflect appropriate organizational reviews or approvals that should be made in advance of the action. Organizational reviews are intended to help assure that expenditures are allowable, necessary and reasonable for the conduct of the project, and that the proposed action:

- 1. is consistent with award terms and conditions;
- 2. is consistent with NSF and awardee policies;
- 3. represents effective utilization of resources; and
- 4. does not constitute a significant project change (see Article 6).

c. The awardee is responsible for ensuring that the Principal Investigator(s) or Project Director(s) receives a copy of the award conditions, including: the award notice, the budget, these general terms and conditions, any special terms and conditions and any subsequent changes in the award conditions. These award conditions are made available to the awardee by NSF, in electronic form and may be duplicated, copied or otherwise reproduced by the awardee as appropriate. This provision does not alter the awardee's full responsibility for conduct of the project and compliance with all award terms and conditions. Award notices are available electronically via the NSF FastLane System at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>. Sponsored project offices are able to view, print and/or download NSF award notices for their organizations and PIs can access their individual award notices through use of the FastLane system.

2. Prior Approval Requirements

Unless otherwise specified in the award, provisions of these International Research Terms and Conditions are applicable for prior NSF approval to be applied to the activities and expenditures specified below.

- a. Written prior approval from the NSF Grants Officer is required for:
 1. Extensions to the Award Period (see Article 3);
 2. Significant Project Changes:
 - (a) transfer of the project effort (see Article 6);
 - (b) change in objectives or scope (see Article 6);
 - (c) absence or change of PI (see Article 6);
 - (d) change in the amount of cost sharing reflected on Line M of the award budget (see Article 19).
 3. Rearrangements/Alterations aggregating \$25,000 or over (Construction) (see Article 8).
 4. The following expense categories which are not included in the approved budget:
 - (a) Consultant Services;
 - (b) Equipment;
 - (c) Travel.
- b. Written prior approval from the NSF Program Officer is required for reallocation of funds provided for participant or trainee support costs (see Article 5).
- c. The prior approval requirements identified above (as well as other types of award related notifications stipulated in the [Award & Administration Guide \(AAG\) Exhibit II-1](#)) must be submitted electronically to NSF through use of the NSF FastLane system at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>.

3. Pre-Award Costs

- a. Awardees may approve pre-award costs incurred within the ninety calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award. Requests for approval of pre-award costs for periods greater than 90 calendar days must be submitted electronically via the NSF FastLane system. Pre-award expenditures prior to funding of an increment within a continuing award are not subject to this limitation or approval requirement, but are subject to paragraph c. below.
- b. Pre-award costs must be necessary for the effective and economical conduct of the project and the costs must be otherwise allowable in accordance with Article 10.

c. Pre-award expenditures are made at the awardee's risk. Awardee authority to approve pre-award costs does not impose an obligation on NSF: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not subsequently made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the awardee expected.

4. Extensions to the Award Period

a. If additional time beyond the award expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work with the funds already made available, then the awardee must submit a request for a no-cost extension to NSF via FastLane at least 45 days prior to expiration of the award.

b. The request must explain the need for the extension, include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining, and a plan for use of the funds. The fact that unobligated funds may remain at the expiration of the award is not in itself sufficient justification for an extension. In addition, awardees are not authorized to extend an award that has a zero balance.

c. The plan for the extended period must adhere to the previously approved objectives of the project. Awardees are cautioned not to make new commitments or incur new expenditures after the expiration date until the no-cost extension has been approved by NSF.

d. Disposition of the approval will either be provided through electronic notification from the cognizant NSF Program Officer or an amendment to the award approved by the NSF Grants Officer. If approved, the new expiration date will be reflected in FastLane.

5. Consultant Services

Costs of consultants, including those who are members of a particular profession or possess a special skill and who are not officers or employees of the performing organization, are allowable when reasonable in relation to the services rendered. While NSF appropriations do not identify a limitation on payments to consultants under NSF awards, payments should be comparable to the normal or customary fees charged and received by the consultant for comparable services, especially on non-government contracts and grants.

6. Equipment

a. Purchase. No item of equipment over \$5,000, other than items identified in the approved budget, may be purchased without the advance written approval of the NSF Program Officer.

b. Title. Title to equipment purchased with NSF award funds shall pass directly to the U.S. Government from the vendor. Within 30 days from the date of delivery by the vendor, the awardee shall furnish the NSF Property Administrator (by email at: fsrpts@nsf.gov) with a full description of the equipment, including model and serial number, acquisition cost (including transportation charges), and the date of the acquisition. The awardee shall be responsible for property control over the equipment and shall obtain disposition instructions from NSF upon expiration of the award.

c. Disposition. Upon expiration of the award, the awardee shall provide the NSF Property Administrator and cognizant Program Officer with a listing of all equipment purchased with grant funds. This listing should include the acquisition cost and current estimated value of each piece of equipment as well as a recommendation from the awardee regarding appropriate disposition.

If the awardee wishes to retain the property for continued use, the grantee should also include a statement of the intended use as well as an indication of whether it is willing to purchase the equipment from the U.S. Government. Upon consideration of information provided by the awardee and other relevant information, NSF will determine appropriate disposition of the equipment and will provide the awardee with disposition instructions.

7. Participant Support Costs

a. Participant support costs are direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with meetings, conferences, symposia or training projects. (See also [AAG Chapter V.C.5.](#)) Awardee organizations must account for participant support costs separately. Note: No indirect costs may be charged against participant support costs.

b. Funds provided for participant support may not be used by awardees for other categories of expense without the specific prior written approval of the cognizant NSF Program Officer. Such requests must be submitted to NSF electronically via FastLane Notifications and Requests module.

8. Significant Project Changes

The awardee is required to obtain prior written approval from the NSF Grants Officer whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction as stipulated below.

a. Transfer of the Project Effort (Subawards).

1. NSF authorization to contract or otherwise transfer a significant part of the research or substantive effort to another organization that was disclosed as a subaward in the proposal (excludes procurement of items such as commercially available supplies, materials, equipment or general support services allowable under the award) will be provided in the award notice unless approval has been specifically withheld.

2. If NSF authorization was not provided in the award notice and/or it becomes necessary to transfer, by contract or other means, a significant part of the research or substantive effort after an award has been made, a request for prior approval shall be submitted to NSF via FastLane and electronically signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). At a minimum, the request shall include a clear description of the work to be performed, the basis for selection of the subawardee, and a separate budget for each subaward. NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the award approved by the NSF Grants Officer.

3. The awardee remains responsible for maintaining the necessary documentation on all subawards and making it available to NSF upon request. The awardee shall include subaward activities in the annual and final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

4. Awardees shall ensure that the following articles, if applicable, flow down to all subawardees, or are appropriately addressed in the subaward instrument: Articles 5, 9 through 11, 15 through 22 and 26 through 30.

b. Change in Objectives or Scope. A proposed change in the phenomenon or phenomena under study or the objectives of the project stated in the proposal or agreed modifications

thereto should be communicated to NSF via use of the [FastLane Notifications and Requests module](#). NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the award approved by the NSF Grants Officer.

c. Absence or Change of Principal Investigator. If a named Principal Investigator or Project Director plans to or becomes aware that he or she will: (1) devote substantially less effort to the work than anticipated in the approved proposal (defined as a reduction of 25% or more in time); (2) sever his or her connection with the awardee organization; or (3) be absent for a continuous period of three months or more, or otherwise relinquish active direction of the project, he or she shall advise the awardee's Authorized Organizational Representative who shall initiate an appropriate action via use of the NSF FastLane Notifications and Requests module in order to notify the NSF Program Officer and obtain approval, if required. Action appropriate to the situation will be initiated in accordance with the guidelines described in [AAG Chapter II.B.2](#).

9. Travel

a. Allowability of Travel Expenses

1. Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items incurred by project personnel and by outside consultants employed on the project (see [AAG Chapter V.B.4](#)) who are in travel status on business related to an NSF-supported project are allowable as prescribed in the governing [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) cost principles](#). The requirements for prior approval detailed in the governing OMB cost principles are waived.

2. Except as provided in the governing OMB cost principles, the difference between economy airfare and a higher-class airfare is unallowable. A train, bus or other surface carrier may be used in lieu of, or as a supplement to, air travel at the lowest first-class rate by the transportation facility used. If such travel, however, could have been performed by air, the allowance will not normally exceed that for jet economy airfare.

b. Travel Support for Dependents of Key Project Personnel

Travel support for dependents of key project personnel is allowable only under the following conditions:

1. the individual is a key person who is essential to the project on a full-time basis;
2. the individual's residence away from home and in a foreign country is for a continuous period of six months or more and is essential to the effective performance of the project; and
3. the dependents' travel allowance is consistent with the policies of the organization administering the award.

c. Use of U.S.-Flag Carriers

1. In accordance with the Fly America Act (49 USC 40118), any air transportation to, from, between, or within a country other than the U.S. of persons or property, the expense of which will be assisted by NSF funding, must be performed by or under a code-sharing arrangement

with a U.S.-flag air carrier if service provided by such a carrier is available (see Comptroller General Decision B-240956, dated September 25, 1991). Tickets (or documentation for electronic tickets) must identify the U.S. flag air carrier's designator code and flight number.

2. For the purposes of this requirement, U.S.-flag air carrier service is considered available even though:

(a) comparable or a different kind of service can be provided at less cost by a foreign-flag air carrier;

(b) foreign-flag air carrier service is preferred by, or is more convenient for, NSF or traveler; or

(c) service by a foreign-flag air carrier can be paid for in excess foreign currency.

3. The following rules apply unless their application would result in the first or last leg of travel from or to the U.S. being performed by a foreign-flag air carrier:

(a) a U.S.-flag air carrier shall be used to destination or, in the absence of direct or through service, to the farthest interchange point on a usually traveled route.

(b) if a U.S.-flag air carrier does not serve an origin or interchange point, a foreign-flag air carrier shall be used only to the nearest interchange point on a usually traveled route to connect with a U.S. flag air carrier.

d. Use of Foreign-Flag Air Carriers

There are certain circumstances under which use of a foreign-flag air carrier is permissible. These circumstances are outlined below:

1. Airline "Open Skies" Agreements:

A foreign flag air carrier may be used if the transportation is provided under an air transportation agreement between the United States and a foreign government, which the Department of Transportation has determined meets the requirements of the Fly America Act. For information on "open skies" agreements in which the United States has entered, please refer to the GSA website at <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103191>.

Note on U.S./European Union Open Skies Agreement

In 2007, the U.S. entered into an "Open Skies" Agreement with the European Union ("EU"). This agreement was modified in June 2010. The current Agreement gives European Community airlines (airlines of Member States) the right to transport passengers and cargo on flights funded by the U.S. government, when the transportation is between: (1) any two points outside the United States; or (2) a point in the United States and any point outside the United States that the EU airline is authorized to serve under the "Open Skies" Agreement.

As of 2011, two significant changes have been made to the U.S./EU Open Skies Agreement. First, EU airlines are now granted the right to transport civilian agency-funded passengers who are NOT eligible to travel on GSA Airline City Pair Contract fares (e.g., grantees) between a point in the United States and a point outside the United States even if there is a GSA Airline

City Pair Contract fare in effect between the origin and destination points. An individual, however, who is traveling on a route for which there is a City Pair Contract fare in effect, *and who is eligible for such a fare* (e.g., Federal employee), will be required to fly on a U.S. carrier, absent another applicable exception.

Second, under the amended Agreement, EU airlines are now authorized to transport passengers between points in the United States and points outside the EU if the EU airline is authorized to serve the route under the Agreement. This includes flights that originate, arrive, or stop in the EU. Prior to this change, EU airlines were limited to flying passengers between points in the U.S. and points in the EU.

2. Involuntary Rerouting: Travel on a foreign-flag carrier is permitted if a U.S.-flag air carrier involuntarily reroutes the traveler via a foreign-flag air carrier, notwithstanding the availability of alternative U.S.-flag air carrier service.

3. Travel To and From the U.S. on non-European Community Airlines

Use of a non-European Community foreign-flag air carrier is permissible if the airport abroad is:

(a) the traveler's origin or destination airport, and use of U.S.-flag air carrier service would extend the time in a travel status by at least 24 hours more than travel by a foreign-flag air carrier; or

(b) an interchange point, and use of U.S.-flag air carrier service would increase the number of aircraft changes the traveler must make outside of the U.S. by two or more, would require the traveler to wait four hours or more to make connections at that point, or would extend the time in a travel status by at least six hours more than travel by a foreign-flag air carrier.

4. Travel Between Points Outside the U.S. on non-European Community Airlines

Use of a non-European Community foreign-flag air carrier is permissible if:

(a) travel by a foreign-flag air carrier would eliminate two or more aircraft changes en route;

(b) travel by a U.S.-flag air carrier would require a connecting time of four hours or more at an overseas interchange point; or

(c) the travel is not part of the trip to or from the U.S., and use of a U.S.-flag air carrier would extend the time in a travel status by at least six hours more than travel by a foreign-flag air carrier.

5. Short Distance Travel. For all short distance travel, regardless of origin and destination, use of a foreign-flag air carrier is permissible if the elapsed travel time on a scheduled flight from origin to destination airport by a foreign-flag air carrier is three hours or less and service by a U.S.-flag air carrier would double the travel time.

10. Rearrangements and Alterations

a. Rearrangement and alteration costs that do not constitute construction (i.e., rearrangements and alterations aggregating less than \$25,000) to adapt space or utilities within a completed structure to accomplish the objectives of the award, are allowable if part of the approved award budget, provided:

1. the building has a usable life consistent with project purposes and is architecturally suitable for conversion;
2. the rearrangements and alterations are essential to the project; and
3. the space involved will be occupied by the project.

b. Rearrangements and alterations (construction) aggregating \$25,000 or over require the prior written approval of the NSF Grants Officer.

11. Allowable Costs

The allowability of costs for work performed under this award, up to the amount specified in the award, shall be determined in accordance with these International Research Terms and Conditions in effect on the date of award and any special terms and conditions of the award.

12. Payments

a. Foreign awardees may receive payments under this award through one of the following methods listed below. The awardee may contact the Division of Financial Management at (703) 292-8280 for additional information. In all cases an awardee should request payments in amounts necessary to meet their current needs, pursuant to the procedures contained in [31 CFR Part 205](#). The awardee agrees to comply with all applicable Treasury regulations and National Science Foundation implementing and reporting procedures, which are outlined in [AAG Chapter III](#).

1. Electronic fund transfers by the Automated Clearing House Payment System. Requests are made electronically via NSF's FastLane Cash Request System under the Financial Administration function. To participate in FastLane Cash Request, the awardee must have an account in a United States bank or use a foreign bank with a branch that is licensed to operate in the United States. Banking information must be provided to the NSF Division of Financial Management through the FastLane EFT Update under the Financial Administration function.

2. Fedwire Transactions. Grantees are required to mail the form SF270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement, to the NSF Division of Financial Management, Room 575 or fax to 703-292-9005. After approval, payments are electronically transmitted to a United States affiliate bank for subsequent transfer to the awardee's bank. The SF270 form may be found at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/aag_3ex1.pdf.

3. International Treasury Services (ITS) payments. The ITS enables agencies to issue International U.S. Dollar ACH payments directly to Foreign banks. Grantees are required to mail the form SF 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement, to the NSF Division of Financial Management, Room 575 or fax to 703-292-9005. The SF270 form must include the grantee's

Swift Code and bank account number or their international bank account number (IBAN). Following receipt and approval of the SF270, payment will be made through ITS.

b. Awardees are required to maintain advances of Federal funds in interest-bearing accounts. Interest earned on Federal advances deposited in interest bearing accounts shall be remitted annually to:

Department of Health and Human Services
Payment Management System
P.O. Box 6021
Rockville, MD 20852

In keeping with Electronic Funds Transfer rules [31 CFR Part 206], interest should be remitted to the DHHS Payment Management System through an electronic medium such as the FEDWIRE Deposit System. Awardees that do not have this capability should submit payment by check. Interest amounts up to \$250 per year may be retained by the awardee for administrative expenses.

13. Continuing Grants

Unless otherwise specified, each successive increment of a continuing grant will be funded at the level indicated in the original award notice, without a formal request from the awardee, provided an annual project report has been received from the Principal Investigator(s) and accepted by the NSF Program Officer. Continuing funding is contingent on (1) availability of funds; (2) satisfactory scientific/technical progress; and (3) any special conditions of the award.

14. Project Reporting Requirements

a. Annual Project Reports

1. **Submission Requirement.** For awards with an award period greater than one year, an annual project report is required.

2. **Content of Annual Project Reports.** Unless otherwise specified in the award, awardees are required to submit annual reports electronically via the Project Reporting System in FastLane. The content requirements for annual project reports are specified in the FastLane system.

3. **Timing of Annual Project Reports.** Unless otherwise specified in the award, annual project reports should be submitted at least 90 days prior to the end of the current annual budget period. Failure to submit timely reports may delay processing of funding increments and prior approval requests.

b. Final Report Requirements

1. **Submission Requirements.** Unless otherwise specified in the award, the awardee shall submit a Final Project Report within 90 days following the expiration of the award.

2. **Content of Final Project Reports.** Unless otherwise specified in the award, awardees shall submit final reports electronically via the Project Reporting System in FastLane. The content requirements for final project reports are specified in the FastLane system and may be

supplemented in the award document. The awardee shall include subaward activities in final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

3. Additional Requirements. The awardee also shall provide to the cognizant NSF Program Officer, within 90 days following the expiration of the award, any unique reports or other end products specified in the award (e.g., special cost-sharing reports), including report requirements set forth in any NSF brochure, guide, solicitation, etc., referenced in the award as being directly related to either the award or administration of this award.

c. Project Outcomes Report for the General Public

Unless otherwise specified in the award, the awardee shall submit a Project Outcomes Report for the General Public (POR) within 90 days following the expiration date of the award. The POR must be submitted electronically via Research.gov. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. (See [AAG Chapter II.E.3.](#))

15. Expenditure Reports

All awardees shall submit a Federal Financial Report (FFR) by the 30th day following the end of each quarter (i.e., January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30). All FFRs must be submitted electronically through Research.gov.

Instructions for using the FFR are available within Research.gov Help by selecting “Federal Financial Report (FFR)” or from the Grantee Cash Management Section staff at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>. For more detailed instructions on using Research.gov, go to Research.gov Help and then select “Federal Financial Report (FFR)”.

16. Responsible Conduct of Research

Article 16 applies to new proposals submitted or due on or after January 4, 2010.

In accordance with Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–1) NSF requires that grantees must have a plan in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research. Training plans are subject to review, upon request.

Awardees must designate one or more persons to oversee compliance with the RCR training requirement. Awardees are responsible for verifying that undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research have received training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research, in accordance with the plan the grantee has put in place for their organization.

Awardees shall ensure that these RCR requirements flow down to all subrecipients, or are otherwise appropriately addressed in the subaward instrument.

17. Information Collection

Information collection activities performed under this award are the responsibility of the awardee, and NSF support of the project does not constitute NSF approval of the survey design, questionnaire content or information collection procedures. The awardee shall not represent to respondents that such information is being collected for or in association with the National Science Foundation or any other U.S. Government agency without the specific written approval of such information collection plan or device by NSF. However, this requirement is not intended to preclude mention of NSF support of the project in response to an inquiry or acknowledgment of such support in any publication of this information.

18. Copyrightable Material

a. Subject writing means any material that:

1. is or may be copyrightable under [Title 17 of the U.S.C.](#); and
2. is produced by the awardee or its employees in the performance of work under this award.

Subject writings include such items as reports, books, journal articles, software, databases, sound recordings, videotapes, and videodiscs.

b. Copyright Ownership, U.S. Government License. Except as otherwise specified in the award or by this paragraph, the awardee may own or permit others to own copyright in all subject writings. The awardee agrees that if it or anyone else does own copyright in a subject writing, the U.S. government will have a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, royalty-free license to exercise or have exercised for or on behalf of the U.S. throughout the world all the exclusive rights provided by copyright. Such license, however, will not include the right to sell copies or phonorecords of the copyrighted works to the public.

c. Awards Affected by International Agreements. If the award indicates it is subject to an identified international agreement or treaty, NSF can direct the awardee to convey to any foreign participant or otherwise dispose of such rights to subject writings as are required to comply with that agreement or treaty.

d. Awardee Action to Protect U.S. Government Interests. The awardee agrees to acquire, through written agreement or an employment relationship, the ability to comply with the requirements of the preceding paragraphs and, in particular, to acquire the ability to convey rights in a subject writing to a foreign participant if directed by NSF under the previous paragraph. The awardee further agrees that any transfer of copyright or any other rights to a subject writing, by it or anyone whom it has allowed to own such rights, will be made subject to the requirements of this article.

19. Program Income

a. Definition. Program income means gross income earned by the awardee that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under the award, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under the award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and interest on loans made

with award funds. Interest earned on advances of award funds is not program income. Program income does not include the receipt of principal on loans, rebates, credits, discounts, etc., or interest earned on any of them.

b. **Standard Treatment.** Unless otherwise specified in the award, program income (except as noted in (1) below) received or accrued to the awardee during the period of this award shall be retained and added to the funds committed to the project by NSF and used to further project objectives. Also, unless otherwise specified, the awardee shall have no obligation to NSF with respect to: (1) license fees and royalties for copyrighted material, patents, patent applications, trademarks, and inventions received or accrued at any time; or (2) program income received beyond the period of this award.

c. **Records Retention.** The awardee is required to retain appropriate financial and other records relating to project income earned during the award period and for three years beyond the end of the award period.

20. Publications

a. **Acknowledgment of Support.** The awardee is responsible for assuring that an acknowledgment of NSF support is made:

1. in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) of any material based on or developed under this project, in the following terms:

"This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (NSF grant number)."

2. NSF support also must be orally acknowledged during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television and news magazines.

b. **Disclaimer.** The awardee is responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including World Wide Web pages) based on or developed under this award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation."

c. **Copies for NSF.** The awardee is responsible for assuring that two copies of every publication of material based on or developed under this award, clearly labeled with the award number and other appropriate identifying information, are sent to the cognizant NSF Program Officer promptly after publication.

d. **Metric System.** All reports and publications resulting from this NSF award are encouraged to use the metric system of weights and measures.

21. Patent Rights

Unless otherwise provided in the award, if this award is for experimental, developmental, or research work, the clause found in the NSF AAG at

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/aag_6.jsp#VID1 (implementing the Bayh-Dole Act, [35 U.S.C. 200 et seq.]) applies. The awardee will include that clause in all subawards for experimental, developmental, or research activities.

22. Cost-Sharing and Cost-Sharing Records

a. General.

1. If an amount is specified on Line M of the award budget, the awardee must cost share in the project with non-U.S. Government funds. Cost sharing participation in other projects may not be counted towards meeting the specific cost sharing requirements of the award.

2. Should the awardee become aware that it may be unable to provide the cost sharing amount identified on Line M of the NSF award budget, it must: a) immediately provide written notification to the Grants Officer of the situation; and b) indicate steps it plans to take to secure replacement cost sharing; or c) indicate the plans it has to either continue or phase out the project in the absence of the approved level of cost sharing.

3. Should NSF agree to the organization's proposed plans, the NSF Grants Officer will modify the award accordingly, including, if appropriate, reducing the amount of NSF support. Should the organization's plans be unacceptable to NSF, the award may be subject to termination. NSF modifications to proposed cost sharing revisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

4. Failure by the organization to notify NSF, in accordance with paragraph 2. above, may result in the following: disallowance of some or all of the costs charged to the award; the subsequent recovery by NSF of some or all of the NSF funds provided under award; possible termination of the award; and violation of the terms of the award so serious as to constitute grounds for subsequent suspension or debarment.

b. Cost-Sharing Records.

The awardee must maintain records of all project costs that are claimed by the awardee as cost-sharing as well as records of costs to be paid by the U.S. Government. Such records are subject to audit. Acceptable forms of cost-sharing contributions are those which meet the criteria identified in [2 CFR Part 215.23](#). If the awardee's cost participation includes in-kind contributions, the basis for determining the valuation for volunteer services and donated property must be documented.

c. Cost-Sharing Reports.

Unless otherwise required by the award or requested by NSF, the actual cost participation by the awardee, while subject to documentation and audit, need not be reported to NSF. In cases, however, where the cost-sharing amount reflected on Line M of the cumulative award budget is \$500,000 or more, the amount of cost-sharing must be documented (on an annual and final basis) and certified by the Authorized Organizational Representative via use of the FastLane Notifications and Requests module. Such notifications must be submitted within 90 days:

1. prior to the end of the current annual budget period to meet the annual notification requirement; and

2. following the expiration of the award to meet the final notification requirement.

23. Audit and Records

a. Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and other records pertinent to this award shall be retained by the awardee for a period of three years from submission of the Final Project Reports specified in Article 14b.

1. Records that relate to audits, appeals, litigation or the settlement of claims arising out of the performance of the project shall be retained until final disposition of such audits, appeals, litigation or claims has been reached.

2. Records relating to projects subject to special project income provisions shall be retained until three years from the end of the awardee's fiscal year in which the award requirement for reporting income expires.

b. Unless court action or audit proceedings have been initiated, the awardee may substitute electronic copies of original records.

c. The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any pertinent books, documents, papers and records of the awardee organization and of the performing organization, if different, to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. Further, any negotiated contract in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$150,000) made by the awardee shall include a provision to the effect that the awardee, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives shall have access to pertinent records for similar purposes.

d. In order to avoid duplicate record keeping, NSF may make special arrangements with the awardee to retain any records that are needed for joint use. NSF may request transfer to its custody of records not needed by the awardee when it determines that the records possess long-term retention value. When the records are transferred to or maintained by NSF the three-year retention requirement is not applicable to the awardee. In the rare event that this provision is exercised, NSF will negotiate a mutually agreeable arrangement with the awardee regarding reimbursement of costs.

24. Site Visits

NSF, through authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. If any site visit is made by NSF on the premises of the awardee or a contractor under an award, the awardee shall provide and shall require its contractors to provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of the U.S. Government representatives in the performance of their duties. All site visits and evaluations shall be performed in such a manner that will not unduly delay the work.

25. Suspension or Termination

a. Any suspension or termination action taken by NSF shall be issued by an NSF Grants Officer and will be in accordance with this article and [AAG Chapter VII.A.](#)

b. The award may be suspended or terminated in whole or in part in any of the following situations:

1. by NSF when the awardee has materially failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the award;

2. by NSF when the Foundation has other reasonable cause;

3. by NSF when ordered by the Deputy Director under NSF's Regulation on Research Misconduct [[45 CFR Part 689](#)];

4. by NSF and the awardee by mutual agreement (if NSF and the awardee cannot reach an agreement, NSF reserves the right to unilaterally terminate the award); or

5. by the awardee on written notice to NSF setting forth the reasons for such action, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated or suspended (with the understanding that if NSF determines that the unterminated portion will not accomplish the purposes of the award, it may suspend or terminate the entire award).

c. Normally, action by NSF to suspend or terminate an award will be taken only after the awardee has been informed by NSF of any deficiency on its part and given an opportunity to correct it; but NSF may immediately suspend or terminate the award without notice when it believes such action is reasonable to protect the interests of the U.S. Government.

d. No costs incurred during a suspension period or after the effective date of a termination will be allowable, except those costs which, in the opinion of NSF, the awardee could not reasonably avoid or eliminate, or which were otherwise authorized by the suspension or termination notice, provided such costs would otherwise be allowable under the terms of the award and these International Research Terms and Conditions.

e. Within 30 days of the termination date, the awardee will furnish a summary of progress under the award and an itemized accounting of costs incurred prior to the termination date or pursuant to d, above. Final allowable costs under a termination settlement shall be in accordance with the terms of the award, including this article, and these International Research Terms and Conditions, giving due consideration to the progress under the award. In no event will the total of NSF payments under a terminated award exceed the award amount, or the NSF pro rata share of the total project costs when cost-sharing was anticipated, whichever is less.

f. A notice of termination other than by mutual agreement and/or the final settlement amount may be subject to review pursuant to Article 23.

26. Termination Review Procedure

a. A request for review of a notice of termination or settlement should be addressed to the Director, Division of Grants and Agreements, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22230. It must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of the letter notifying the awardee of the termination or settlement.

b. The request for review must contain a full statement of the awardee's position and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of such position.

c. Review of a notice of termination or settlement will be conducted in accordance with [AAG Chapter VII.A.4.](#)

d. Pending resolution of the request for review, the notice of termination shall remain in effect.

27. Human Research Subjects

The awardee is responsible for the protection of the rights and welfare of any human subjects involved in research, development and related activities supported by this award. The awardee agrees to comply with the NSF regulation, entitled, "Protection of Human Subjects [[45 CFR 690](#)]."

28. Animal Welfare

Awards involving the care or use of vertebrate animals shall comply will all applicable laws in the foreign country where the activities will be conducted and that the International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals (see <http://www.cioms.ch>) will be followed.

29. Trafficking in Persons

Awardees shall comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)) as implemented by [2 CFR 175](#).

30. Research Involving Recombinant DNA Research Outside the U.S.

Recombinant DNA research within the scope of the [Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules](#) (Guidelines), as amended in January 2001, that is performed outside of the U.S. using funds provided by NSF for transportation, salaries or direct research expenses must comply with the U.S. or host country standards. If the research is to be carried out in a country that has adopted guidelines comparable to those of the U.S., a document with information and endorsements assuring compliance to the host organization standards must be submitted to the cognizant NSF Program Officer. NSF funds may not be used to carry out research using recombinant DNA in a country that has not adopted national guidelines unless the research is in full compliance with the Guidelines and the procedures required for NSF-supported research within the U.S.

31. Resolution of Conflicting Conditions

Should there be any inconsistency between any special conditions contained in the award and these International Research Terms and Conditions, the special conditions in the award shall control.

Should there be any inconsistency between these International Research Terms and Conditions, any special conditions contained in the award, and any NSF guides, brochures, etc., cited or included by reference in the award, the matter should be referred to the NSF Grants Officer for guidance.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

32. Liability

NSF cannot assume any liability for accidents, illnesses or claims arising out of any work supported by an award or for unauthorized use of patented or copyrighted materials. The awardee institution is advised to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to insure or protect itself, its employees and its property.

33. Sharing of Findings, Data, and Other Research Products

a. NSF expects significant findings from research and education activities it supports to be promptly submitted for publication, with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved. It expects investigators to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work. It also encourages awardees to share software and inventions or otherwise act to make the innovations they embody widely useful and usable.

b. Adjustments and, where essential, exceptions may be allowed to safeguard the rights of individuals and subjects, the validity of results, or the integrity of collections or to accommodate legitimate interests of investigators.

34. Government Permits and Activities Carried On Outside the U.S.

a. For awards that include activities requiring permits from appropriate Federal, state, or local government authorities, the awardee should obtain any required permits prior to undertaking the proposed activities.

b. The awardee should assure that award activities carried on outside the U.S. are coordinated as necessary with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities and that necessary licenses, permits or approvals are obtained prior to undertaking proposed activities. NSF does not assume responsibility for awardee compliance with the laws and regulations of the country in which the work is to be conducted.