

2012 HHMI Summer Medical Fellows Program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW

The HHMI Summer Medical Fellows Program provides an 8–10 week research experience for medical, dental, and veterinary students in the laboratories of HHMI investigators or Janelia Farm researchers. This fellowship program is primarily aimed at those students who wish to explore the summer research experience with the intent of applying to a year-long research training program. Subsequent applications to the year-long Medical Research Fellows Program are not limited to the laboratory in which the summer experience was obtained. Students from all medical, dental and veterinary schools in the U.S. are encouraged to apply for this beneficial educational opportunity. Up to 20 fellowships will be awarded in 2012.

THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Awardees will undertake a basic, translational, or applied biomedical research project for the summer, which will provide them with an increase in scientific knowledge and skills, and enable them to benefit from a rich research training experience. For those students with prior research experience, the summer HHMI program can offer additional training gains that will have an impact on the student's progress and continuation in research. Each mentor is limited to one applicant per competition cycle.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- \$5,000 payment for 10 weeks (\$500/week for less than 10 weeks); minimum of 8 weeks required
- Up to \$1,000 for roundtrip relocation costs, if the research is conducted at an institution other than the home school

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should review the list of current HHMI investigators (<http://www.hhmi.org/research/search.htm>) and especially consider HHMI investigators who have already indicated a willingness to serve as mentors (www.hhmi.org/medfellowships) for the summer program.

Students should peruse the research underway in prospective mentors' labs (e.g., via their Web sites, PubMed searches, etc.) and contact investigators of interest. The mentor may request the student's CV and have further discussions with the student about his/her background, experience and interests. If the mentor and student decide to proceed with the application, they will work together to develop the research proposal and the mentor will submit an applicant assessment and training environment statement in support of the student's application.

Timeline:

- Online application in the HHMI Competition System: www.hhmi.org/competitions opens November 1, 2011
- Application deadline is February 15, 2012
- Award notifications will be made on April 1, 2012
- Deadline for acceptance of award is April 15, 2012
- Flexible summer start date — 8–10 consecutive weeks required

Application Requirements:

- Applicant
 - Contact information
 - Educational History (from AMCAS or equivalent)
 - Summary (abstract) of proposed research
 - Research plan — co-written by mentor and student (maximum 2 pages)
 - Prior research experience — project title, dates, mentor

- Personal statement — why applicant is interested in this summer research experience and his/her scientific interests (1 page)
- Dean's confirmation that the student is in good standing and may be excused from required academic activities during the 8–10 week summer fellowship period
- Mentor
 - Applicant assessment, training goals for the student and training environment (1–2 pages)
 - Comment on why you selected this student to work in your laboratory and how you think the student would benefit from this experience.
 - What will the student be doing and how will he/she be trained?
 - What do you expect the student will learn?
 - How will *you* mentor this student?
 - Comment on the experiences the student should expect (e.g., lab members available for additional mentorship, developmental activities, lab meetings, short courses of 1–2 days, presentations, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY

- Medical, dental, and veterinary students in good standing in their first or second year at schools located in the U.S.
- Applicants must be able to conduct full-time research for a minimum of 8 consecutive weeks (10 weeks preferred) in the laboratory of an HHMI investigator or with a Janelia Farm researcher.
- Students are not eligible to apply if they
 - have received a one-year award from any year-out research training program or other funding mechanism,
 - have participated in a year of full-time biomedical research during medical, dental or veterinary school,

- are enrolled in a combined professional degree/Ph.D. program (e.g., M.D./Ph.D.), or
- have a Ph.D. in a laboratory-based biomedical science
- Students may not be enrolled in regular coursework or clinical rotations during the summer fellowship period.
- Students may not concurrently receive funding from another source for summer research.
- Those who are not U.S. citizens must provide evidence of their eligibility to participate in this program by the award acceptance deadline of April 15, 2012. Students who are in the U.S. on a student visa must have their home school authorize [Curricular Practical Training](#) by the award acceptance deadline of April 15, 2012.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The HHMI reviewers will evaluate each applicant's demonstrated scholarship and promise for future achievement in biomedical research. The panel will also consider the appropriateness of the designated mentor and the research project for training in the proposed area of research, the quality of the training environment, and the mentor's stated plans for training the applicant. The review panel will evaluate the impact of the research experience and how it would further the applicant's development in relation to the level of any previous research experience.

The final selection of awardees will be made by HHMI based on the review panel evaluations and the program goals. *Evaluations of the review panel will be confidential.*

For further information contact:
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 Visit: www.hhmi.org/medfellowships

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