

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Excellence and Diversity in the Life Sciences

Program Information
2012



Freedom

Earn a Ph.D. at the university of your choice.

Opportunity

Work with distinguished scientists.

Leadership

Lead a new generation of biomedical researchers.

Application deadline: October 13, 2011

Award notification: December 2011

Fellowship begins: September 2012

HHMI

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Department of Science Education

**HOWARD HUGHES
MEDICAL INSTITUTE**

www.hhmi.org

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a medical research organization dedicated to biomedical research and science education. Its principal objectives are the advancement of fundamental knowledge in the biomedical sciences and the application of that knowledge to alleviate disease and promote health.

Through its science education department, HHMI seeks to strengthen science education and biomedical research by supporting current and future leaders to advance scientific knowledge, develop educational products, and implement outstanding educational practices.

GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDY

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study promotes excellence in scientific research by helping potential researchers with exceptional promise obtain high-quality graduate education and training.

Support for training scientists and engineers has long been a cornerstone of public policy concerned with the vitality of science. HHMI has invested and continues to invest substantially in graduate and medical research education through the direct support of fellowship and training programs.

HHMI awards up to ten Gilliam Fellowships each year. These fellowships have been named in honor of the late James H. Gilliam Jr., a charter member of HHMI's Trustees, who was committed to fostering a diverse scientific community.

HHMI makes awards to the graduate institutions in support of individuals who have participated in HHMI's Exceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP), have demonstrated superior scholarship, are committed to increasing the diversity of the professoriate, and show the greatest potential as scientific leaders.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this award an applicant must be a graduating senior or must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a Ph.D. program in the biomedical or related sciences. In addition, applicants must not have completed more than one year in a Ph.D. program by the application date.

Any student who has participated in the EXROP program, regardless of country of origin or nationality, is eligible to apply for the Gilliam Fellowship. Students who plan to enroll or who are enrolled in an M.D./Ph.D. program may apply if they meet the above eligibility criteria. However, the Gilliam Fellowship will support only the costs of the Ph.D. portion of an M.D./Ph.D. program.

LOCATION OF STUDY

Fellows may choose as their fellowship institution any institution of higher education in the United States that offers the Ph.D. or equivalent advanced degree in a relevant scientific field. In special cases, fellowship recipients may request the permission of HHMI to choose a foreign fellowship institution. All fellows are responsible for making arrangements to attend their chosen institution. Fellows may study or engage in research away from their fellowship institution during part of their fellowship term if, in the judgment of their academic adviser, such an arrangement would further their education.

FELLOWSHIP TERM

The duration of the award is five years. Continuation of support is contingent on annual notification to HHMI that the fellow is making satisfactory academic progress. Fellows must engage in their Ph.D. or equivalent studies full time for 12 months of each fellowship year, and the fellowship years must be consecutive. Those who attend institutions with no formal summer sessions must make institutionally approved arrangements for directed study or research toward their advanced degrees during those periods.

M.D./Ph.D. (or equivalent dual-degree) students should note that fellowship support terminates upon resumption of study toward the M.D., D.O., D.V.M., or D.D.S. degree.

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

For the 2012-2013 fellowship year, the total amount awarded to each Gilliam Fellow is \$46,500. HHMI provides the funds to the fellowship institution, which in turn pays the fellow. The current annual stipend is \$30,000. There is no dependency allowance. In addition, HHMI provides the fellow an annual allowance of \$3,000, which can be used for health care expenses, books and supplies, journal subscriptions, a computer and computer-related expenses, travel to scientific meetings, professional fees or dues, tuition for special summer courses, or other purposes relevant to a fellow's study.

The fellow's allowance cannot be used by the institution to pay for health insurance for the fellow, or any institutional fees or research costs. HHMI also provides an annual institutional allowance of \$13,500 in lieu of tuition, assessed fees, and health insurance for the fellow. If the cost of tuition, required fees, and insurance is less than \$13,500, any remaining funds are to be used for education-related purposes to benefit the fellow or other graduate students. Recipient institutions must agree that each fellow is exempt from paying tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing.

Fellows are not permitted to supplement the stipend by private employment or consulting work or to receive significant funds from another external fellowship, scholarship, or similar award. The fellowship institution, however, may supplement the stipend in accordance with its usual policy for comparable graduate students.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Fellowships are awarded on the basis of the candidate's promise as a scientific investigator and potential for leadership in the scientific community, as reflected by academic records, relevant educational and personal experiences, previous accomplishment and goals, research experience, proposed research plan, references, and scores attained on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test or the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

Applicant qualifications will be assessed by a panel of scientists and scientist educators selected by HHMI. The final selection of awardees will be made by HHMI, based on the panel's recommendations and the program goals. Upon request, feedback regarding the application will be given to the student, though reviewers' written comments will not be made available to the applicants or their institutions.

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION AND MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST

Applicant Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores will be obtained directly from the student, although HHMI will verify scores with the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Applicant Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores will also be obtained directly from the student, although HHMI

will also verify MCAT scores with the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC). Ideally, scores should be from an examination taken during the past two years. The GRE and MCAT must be taken by October 2, 2011.

Registration forms and information about the GRE are available from four-year colleges and universities or from the ETS, which administers the GRE (www.ets.org/gre). HHMI will cover the registration costs for all current and former EXROP students who take the GRE.

Registration forms and information about the MCAT are available from the AAMC, which administers the exam (<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/>). HHMI does not reimburse applicants for the MCAT registration fees.

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Fellows are required to enroll full time in a program leading to a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the sciences. The degree program may include a reasonable amount of teaching or similar professional development activities. Scholarly development of the fellow, not service to the fellowship institution, should govern the participation of the fellow in such activities.

Recipients of the awards may begin the fellowship no earlier than June 2012 and no later than January 2013. Upon request, HHMI may grant a deferral of the fellowship. Deferrals will be granted only for activities intended to broaden the educational experiences of the fellow.

Each year, continuation of the fellowship award is contingent on the fellowship institution's certification to HHMI that the fellow is making satisfactory progress toward a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the life or physical sciences. In addition, fellows will be required to submit a progress report to HHMI on an annual basis. Support for medical students in M.D./Ph.D. programs will require full-time study toward a Ph.D. degree. Fellowship support will be discontinued when a fellow resumes study toward a medical degree. A change in fellowship institution or a major change in the course of study or area of research will require prior HHMI approval for continuation of the fellowship.

Fellows are expected to conduct research according to the highest scientific and ethical standards and in compliance with

all applicable laws, regulations, and policies concerning protection of human research subjects, humane care and use of laboratory animals, and laboratory safety. Fellows are responsible for conducting research and preparing research results for publication within the established guidelines of the fellowship institution. HHMI does not assume responsibility for research findings or their interpretation.

This announcement sets forth only the most basic program information. All fellowships are subject to the further provisions contained in the booklet *Information for Gilliam Fellows and Fellowship Institutions* (which will be available on the web to awardees) and any further documentation provided by HHMI.

HOW TO APPLY

Prospective Gilliam Fellowship applicants are expected to complete an application, which will be made available electronically to all eligible EXceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP) students. The application is submitted via HHMI's Web-based competition system at www.hhmi.org/competitions. Submission of all applicant and reference forms must be made via the Web. *Direct all inquiries about applications to Maryrose Franko, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer, Gilliam Fellowships Program at 301.215.8880 or by writing to gilliam@hhmi.org.*

APPLICATION MATERIALS

A complete application consists of the following items:

1. Applicant information including name, current and permanent addresses, email address, and other pertinent information.
2. Educational history including names of all colleges and universities attended, dates of attendance, and degrees obtained.
3. All undergraduate transcripts (to be sent to HHMI directly by institutions attended).
4. List of relevant honors, awards, and professional activities.
5. Educational and personal experiences relevant to your career goals and objectives.
6. Research experiences, including dates, project summary, and the applicant's role in the project.
7. A list of publications, presentations, and posters, if applicable.
8. Proposed research plan with literature cited. This should be an example of a project you might undertake, not a commitment to a dissertation project.
9. Leadership statement demonstrating leadership potential and/or how receipt of the Gilliam Fellowship will help advance scientific careers of underrepresented students.
10. Three letters (with the option of a fourth letter) of reference sent directly to HHMI. Letters should be from those who can speak best to potential as a scientist. A letter from your HHMI EXROP mentor is required and one from your HHMI program director is recommended.
11. Recent scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

Applicants should retain copies of all application materials since these materials will not be returned. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that references and academic transcripts are submitted to HHMI by October 13, 2011. Note that incomplete applications are at a disadvantage in the competition and may not be evaluated.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

To qualify for consideration in the competition, the full application must be submitted to HHMI Program Staff by 2 pm Eastern Time on October 13, 2011.

AWARD NOTIFICATION DATE

HHMI will notify all applicants by mail of the outcome of their applications in December.

CONTACTING PROGRAM STAFF

Requests, notifications, inquiries, and other correspondence regarding HHMI's Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study should be directed to:

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