



## 2018 Program Announcement

The goal of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's (HHMI) Exceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP) is to ensure that a diverse and highly trained workforce is prepared to assume leadership roles in science, including college and university faculty who have the responsibility to develop the next generation of scientists. The EXROP Program links the resources of HHMI's Science and Science Education departments to provide bright, motivated undergraduate students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences with outstanding summer research experiences. HHMI continues to work with EXROP students after their summer study programs to encourage them to pursue careers in academic science.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- 10 weeks of full-time research in the lab of an HHMI scientist
- \$5,000 stipend
- Participation in a local summer research program with other undergraduate researchers
- Long-distance travel and housing arranged and paid for by HHMI
- Students will attend two annual EXROP meetings on May 16-18, 2018 and in May 2019 at HHMI headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where they will meet former and current EXROP students
- HHMI scientists, nominators, and staff will continue to follow up and mentor the students beyond the summer experience
- EXROP students may be eligible for a second summer research opportunity in their EXROP lab (EXROP Capstone)
- EXROP alumni who pursue the PhD degree will be eligible for continued HHMI support in their PhD training through the Gilliam Fellows program

## ELIGIBILITY

HHMI's EXROP Program is open to undergraduate students who are (i) motivated toward careers as academic scientists (ii) from racial, ethnic, and other underrepresented groups in the sciences and (iii) committed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion in the sciences.

**It is the nominator's responsibility to determine the eligibility of the nominee.** To assist the nominator, we provide the definitions used by the NIH <sup>1,2</sup>.

The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research African Americans, Latino/Hispanic Americans, Native Americans/Alaska Natives who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment, Hawaiian Natives and natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

In addition, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting and individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be convincingly demonstrated to be underrepresented and specifically supported by the nominating institution's policies and resources, may be included.

Also, included as underrepresented are individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career and/or individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds.

Individuals with disabilities are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

<sup>1</sup> <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15.053.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-015.html>

Additional Eligibility Criteria include:

- Students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or immigrants who intend to stay in the U.S.
- Students who do not receive funding during the summer from another undergraduate research program. Examples of programs include MARC, RISE, IMSD, or other similar sources of funding.
- Students who will not have graduated with a bachelor's degree before December 2018
- Students who will commit to at least 10 weeks for a full-time summer research experience
- Students who have the potential and maturity to excel in an independent research project
- Students interested in graduate school and who have the potential to excel in graduate work
- Students who have the potential to become future leaders in academic science
- Students do not need prior research experience; however, most successful applicants have had prior research experience
- Students must be able to complete federal tax forms and provide us with their U.S. tax payer identification information to receive the \$5,000 stipend
- Students have health insurance that extends through the entire summer research experience

## APPLICATION & SELECTION

Application to the program is by nomination only from an HHMI professor, a director of an HHMI-funded undergraduate program at a college or university, or faculty contact at an active HHMI Science Education Alliance (SEA) school.

A complete application will include the following information:

- i) Applicant Information, (ii) Previous Research Experience Descriptions, (iii) Personal Statement, (iv) List of Undergraduate Science and Mathematics Courses, and (v) Letters of recommendation from two faculty references who can evaluate the applicant's potential as a scientist.

Applications are reviewed by an external advisory panel, and the selected students matched into labs.

The application also includes a scientist preference section. While the preference information is not available to the reviewers who are helping select EXROP students, this information will be very important after the potential awardees have been selected. Because preference selections are not guaranteed, the rationale for selecting scientists and the additional summary at the end of this section will be especially important in determining the scientist matched with each awardee.

## PROGRAM DATES & DEADLINES

**September 1 - November 15, 2017:** Eligible faculty nominate students

**November 1, 2017:** Application opens for nominated students deemed eligible

**December 1, 2017:** Deadline for student application

**December 5, 2017:** Deadline to receive letters of recommendation

**January 18, 2018:** Award Notification: (All award recipients will participate in a mandatory interactive online web information session January 24 or 25)

**January 31, 2018:** Deadline for students to accept/decline award

## CONTACT

[www.hhmi.org/exrop](http://www.hhmi.org/exrop)

All inquiries and correspondences regarding the EXROP Program should be directed to:

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