2018 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS
for ADVANCED STUDY

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Application Deadline: February 1, 2018
Award Notification: June 2018
Fellowship Term Begins: September 1, 2018
The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) plays a powerful role in advancing scientific research and education in the United States. HHMI’s program in biomedical research rests on the conviction that scientists of exceptional talent, commitment, and imagination will make fundamental discoveries for the betterment of human health if they receive the resources, time, and freedom to pursue challenging questions. The Institute’s science education programs support initiatives with the power to transform education in the life sciences for all students. Our objectives are to recruit and develop talented students who will be the future leaders of science and science education, and to promote scientific literacy among all students by partnering with faculty and institutions committed to developing student talent. Just as today’s researchers solve complex questions by working across scientific disciplines and integrating tools from these disciplines, HHMI seeks to support science education by integrating a variety of tools and approaches that will engage students in science. Innovation in science depends on the continued development of a diverse population of scientists and students.

THE JAMES H. GILLIAM, JR. FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDY
www.hhmi.org/gilliam

The Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study were created in 2004 in honor of the late James H. Gilliam, Jr., a charter Trustee of HHMI and chair of its Audit and Compensation Committee. Mr. Gilliam was a respected business and civic leader who spent his life nurturing excellence and diversity in science and education.

The goal of HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study program is to ensure that a diverse and highly trained workforce is prepared to assume leadership roles in science, particularly college and university faculty who have the responsibility to develop the next generation of scientists. The training of scientists and engineers has long been a cornerstone of public science policy. HHMI has invested and continues to invest substantially in graduate and medical research education through the direct support of fellowship and training programs. The Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study program promotes excellence in the life sciences and related fields by supporting (i) PhD students committed to a career in academic research, and (ii) faculty and training programs dedicated to developing the talents of promising graduate students from underrepresented groups.

The Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study Program promotes the commitment of institutions, thesis advisors, and students to the development of talent that will lead to the diverse and inclusive future professoriate of the biomedical sciences.

ELIGIBILITY

HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study are open to eligible pairs comprising thesis advisors and PhD students (“advisor-student pairs”).

- Advisor-student pairs from eligible disciplines must be nominated by the HHMI-designated institutional representative; and

- PhD students must be NIGMS training grant eligible, be from racial, ethnic, and other underrepresented groups in the sciences, or Alumni of the HHMI EXROP and be at the appropriate program stage of their PhD training.

It is the nominator’s responsibility to determine the eligibility of the nominees. The following information is provided to assist the nominator.

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

Training grant eligible (TGE) trainees refers only to U.S citizens, non-citizen nationals and permanent residents eligible for Kirschstein-NRSA support.

1 https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/diversity/Pages/ReviewerInstructions.aspx
4 https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/Pages/New-Training-Tables-FAQs.aspx
The Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study will support students for up to three years of their dissertation research, typically in years 3-5 of their PhD studies. Nominations must therefore be made for students in their second or third year of a PhD program that have advanced to candidacy by September 1, 2018. The advisor-student pairs must be studying scientific problems in biomedical and life science disciplines including plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology.

Students who are enrolled in an MD/PhD (e.g., Medical Scientist Training Program) program are not eligible.

Nominations will be accepted from institutions selected by HHMI. Notifications will be sent to the designated nominators by HHMI in August, the submission portal opens in early September, and the deadline for nominations for the 2018 competition is November 3, 2017.

LOCATION OF STUDY

Gilliam fellows may study or engage in research away from their fellowship institution during any portion of the fellowship if, in the judgment of their faculty mentor, such an arrangement would further their training.

FELLOWSHIP TERM

The duration of HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study is up to three years. Continuation of support is contingent on annual participation by the thesis advisor and student fellow in Gilliam programming and an annual progress report that includes notification to HHMI that the fellow is making satisfactory progress toward the PhD. Fellows must engage in their PhD 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 session must make institutionally approved arrangements for directed study or research during that period.

The term of the fellowship is up to three consecutive years unless a leave of absence is granted by the fellowship institution and approved by HHMI.

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Recipients of HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study may begin the fellowship no earlier than September 1, 2018. Gilliam fellows are required to be enrolled full time in a program leading to a PhD or equivalent degree in eligible disciplines. The degree program may include a reasonable amount of teaching or similar professional development activities. Scholarly development of the fellow, and not service to the institution, should govern the participation of the fellow in such activities. Fellows are required to participate in the annual Gilliam Fellows meetings.

HHMI provides resources to support the development of mentoring skills of the thesis advisor. The advisor is expected to participate in these activities, including on-line interactive webinars and two in-person workshops—the first will be in early April, 2019, and the second will be in conjunction with the annual Gilliam Fellows meeting in the autumn of 2019. During the processing of the 2018 awards, the thesis advisor will confirm her/his commitment to participate in the mentor development activities.

Each year, continuation of the fellowship award is contingent on participation in Gilliam programming as listed above, the fellowship institution’s certification to HHMI that the fellow is making satisfactory progress toward a PhD or equivalent degree, and the submission of an annual progress report by the thesis advisor and the student fellow to HHMI.

Please note that any changes in thesis advisor, area of research, or fellowship institution will require prior HHMI approval for continuation of the fellowship. Advisors and Fellows are expected to behave according to the highest scientific and ethical standards and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, including policies concerning the protection of human research subjects, humane care and use of laboratory animals, and laboratory safety. Advisors and 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.

DEFERRAL OF AWARD

HHMI recognizes that students may be applying for and awarded multiple fellowships. If awarded another graduate fellowship, HHMI program staff will work with the awarded student and the faculty advisor to determine how and when to activate the Gilliam award. Deferral of the Gilliam Fellowship can be for up to one year to accept funding from another agency. The Gilliam award cannot be deferred for training grants.

Deferrals may also be granted for activities intended to broaden the educational experiences of the fellow. Regardless of the reason for deferral, the Gilliam award will support the advisor-student pair for three consecutive years or until the end of the sixth year of study, whichever comes first.

Please note that awarded thesis advisors and fellows are expected to participate fully in HHMI programming as listed in the “Conditions of Appointment” section, even if they defer. An advisor-student pair wishing to defer the Gilliam fellowship should contact HHMI as soon as possible.
STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

For the 2018–2019 fellowship year, the total amount awarded to the institution is $50,000. HHMI will provide the funds to the fellowship institution, which in turn will pay the fellow and advisor. In order to allow for some fiscal flexibility, the institution/thesis advisor may substitute or augment funds as long as the following minimal amounts are applied to each of the three categories:

1. The annual Fellow stipend is $33,000. There is no dependency allowance.
2. In addition to the stipend, the award provides the fellows an annual educational allowance of $3,000, which may be used for professional development–related expenses, including books and supplies, journal subscriptions, computer and computer-related expenses, travel to scientific meetings, professional dues, and tuition for special courses or workshops. The educational allowance is intended to be for the fellow and cannot be used by the fellowship institution to pay for institutional fees or research costs.
3. HHMI also provides an annual institutional allowance of $10,000 in lieu of tuition and other fees. If the cost of tuition and fees is less than $10,000, any remaining funds are to be used for education-related purposes to benefit the fellow or other comparable graduate students at the institution. If the cost of tuition and fees exceeds $10,000, the institution must agree to waive any amount greater than $10,000. The fellowship institution must agree that the fellow will be exempt from tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing.

The fellow may elect to use the educational allowance to cover his or her health insurance if insurance coverage is optional at the fellowship institution. If health insurance is required at the institution, then the costs should be part of the institutional allowance. Gilliam fellows are not permitted to supplement the stipend by private employment or consulting work, or to receive significant funds from other fellowship/scholarship sources or from training grants. However, the institution may supplement the HHMI stipend in accordance with its usual policy for comparable graduate students. The remaining funds of the HHMI award (at least $4,000 per year) are to be used by the thesis advisor to promote diversity and inclusion (e.g., professional development activities for the lab group and/or the graduate program).

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study are awarded on the basis of (1) the demonstrated ability of the institution and the thesis adviser to develop outstanding scientists especially those from underrepresented groups, and (2) the candidate’s promise as a scientific investigator, potential for leadership in the scientific community, aspiration for a career in academia, and a commitment to advance diversity and inclusion in science. The adviser and student applicant’s qualifications and the mentoring environment, as described in the nomination letter and supporting letters and the mentoring plan, will be assessed by a panel of scientists and scientist educators selected by HHMI. The final selection of fellows and their mentors will be made by HHMI based on the recommendations of the panel.

NOMINATION

All applicants must be nominated. HHMI designates the nominator and the number of nominations allotted to each institution. EXROP alumni must also be nominated by the head of their graduate program. EXROP alumni interested in applying are asked to contact Gilliam@hhmi.org for further instructions. The EXROP alumni do not count against the total number of nominations allocated to the invited institution.

The nomination will be a key part of the application that is reviewed by the selection panel.

All nominations must be submitted to HHMI via the HHMI online Competition System. Log-in information will be provided to the institutional representative eligible to nominate a student. Notifications will be sent to the institutional nominator in August, the submission portal opens in early September and the deadline for nominations for the 2018 competition is November 3, 2017.

The nomination will include the following information:

- How the advisor-student pair fit the eligibility requirements;
- The evidence that the thesis advisor has the interest, demonstrated ability, and commitment to successfully develop the talents of students, including those from underrepresented groups;
- The evidence that the student nominee shows high promise as a scientific investigator and her/his potential for leadership in the academic and scientific community;
- The evidence that the student nominee has a commitment to diversity and inclusion;
- The evidence that the training grant or graduate program is able and committed to developing a diverse and inclusive talent pool. Demographic characteristics of the program may be provided;
- The evidence that the training grant or graduate program is a good match for the student nominee’s professional interests; and
- How HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study will help the graduate program improve its ability to develop an outstanding, diverse pool of PhD graduates.
APPLICATION

There are two parts to the application.

From the prospective student:

- Applicant’s information, including name, current and permanent addresses, email address, and other pertinent contact information;
- Educational history, including names of all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended, dates of attendance, and degrees obtained. Transcripts are not required.
- A list of publications authored or co-authored by the applicant;
- A dissertation research plan with relevant literature cited; and
- A leadership statement describing how the applicant plans to contribute to the advancement of diversity and inclusion in science and in the professoriate.

From the thesis advisor:

- A current curriculum vitae including current and pending research support;
- A plan that describes how the award will be used to advance diversity and inclusion; and
- A personal statement that provides evidence of developing students and a detailed mentoring plan for the student applicant. The statement should include the justification for support of the student including an assessment of his or her potential to become an academic scientist. It should also include a clear statement in which the advisor agrees to participate in the mentor development activities and to attend at least two annual meetings of the Gilliam Fellows. These expenses for the mentor development activities and attendance at the annual meetings will be paid by HHMI.

If the student has a co-advisor, a separate statement will also be required from him/her.

DEADLINES

Nomination: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), November 3, 2017

Application: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), February 1, 2018

Letters of Recommendation: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), February 1, 2018

All materials must be submitted via HHMI’s online Competition System (HHMI Pathway).

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.hhmi.org/gilliam

All inquiries and other correspondence regarding HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study should be directed to:

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This announcement sets forth basic program information. All fellowships are subject to the provisions summarized in the Information Booklet for Fellowships, which will be available at http://www.hhmi.org/gilliam.