



Gilliam Fellows Program

2024 Competition

Campus Representative Information Session

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Outline

- Gilliam Program overview: history, goals, objectives
- 2024 Gilliam competition overview
- Eligibility
- Application Components (Adviser and Student)
- Evaluation
- FAQs
- Q&A

The James H. Gilliam, Jr. Fellows Program

www.hhmi.org/gilliam



This year's cohort hails from 37 institutions across the country, including eight institutions receiving their first-ever Gilliam Fellowship award.

The Gilliam Fellows Program supports pairs of graduate students and their faculty advisers who, together, embody scientific leadership, an important component of which is a commitment to building an equitable and inclusive science culture.

Gilliam Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goals: The goals of the Gilliam program are 1) to ensure graduate trainees who are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in science are equipped and empowered to assume leadership roles in science, and 2) to foster development of a healthier, more inclusive academic scientific ecosystem by partnering with faculty and institutions committed to creating more inclusive and healthy scientific training environments.

Objectives: Short-term objectives of Gilliam are to continue advancing these goals through holistic selection of student-adviser pairs with high potential for future scientific leadership and facilitation of institutional change. Over the long-term, our objectives are that Gilliam alumni transition to leadership roles throughout the scientific landscape including academia, industry, and government and that biomedical research institutions across the country demonstrate advances in equity, inclusiveness, and promotion of healthy training environments.

The Gilliam Award

Gilliam Fellows Program award supports students for up to three years of their dissertation research, typically in years 3–5 of their PhD studies. The term of the fellowship is for up to three consecutive years unless a deferment or leave of absence is granted by the fellowship institution and approved by HHMI. Advisers and Fellows are expected to participate fully in HHMI programming even if they defer activation of the award.

\$53,000 annually

- Fellow's annual stipend - \$36,000
- Institutional allowance - \$10,000
- Fellow's discretionary allowance - \$4,000
- Adviser's allowance - \$3,000

By accepting the award, advisers agree to participate fully in the year-long Mentorship Skills Development course.

Competition Timeline

October 19, 2023: Application Opens

December 7, 2023: Application Deadline

June 2024: Award Notification

September 1, 2024: Fellowship Starts

All eligibility, application materials, and the letter of support must be submitted via HHMI's online application system (HHMI Pathway – pathway.hhmi.org) by the above deadline.

Eligibility

The Gilliam Fellows Program is open to eligible pairs of thesis advisers and PhD students (“adviser-student pairs”). The 2024 application is an open competition. HHMI invites applications from all eligible PhD students and their thesis advisers.

Adviser-student pairs must:

- be studying scientific problems in biomedical sciences, life sciences, or biological questions in related disciplines. This includes basic research on a variety of biological systems and at all scales including at the molecular, cellular, organismal, ecological, and behavioral levels. This initiative does not support social science research.
- be committed to advancing equity and inclusion in science, as demonstrated by responses to questions provided as part of the holistic application.

Eligibility Continued

Prospective Fellows must:

- be currently enrolled and in good academic standing in a biomedical or life sciences PhD program at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. territory.
- be in their second or third year of a PhD program at the time of application and have at least two full years of study remaining as of September 1, 2024. Students enrolled in or affiliated with a dual-degree program (e.g., MD-PhD) are not eligible to apply.
- be a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident, undocumented childhood arrival, or undocumented individual who has been granted temporary permission to stay in the U.S. (e.g., DACA).

Thesis Adviser: Application Components

The adviser serves as Lead Applicant and initiates the application by first completing the Eligibility component. If Eligibility is met, they then proceed to the application.

- **Eligibility:** current enrollment, academic standing, year in program, scientific discipline, and citizenship status
- **Co-applicants:** adviser adds student and, optionally, a co-adviser (if student's research plan crosses areas of expertise, or if a co-adviser would strengthen student's research training experience)
- **Application components:**
 - **Biosketch** including
 - Up to five significant contributions to science
 - Up to five adviser-authored publications relevant to student's research project
 - Training record data table: (current, past 5 yrs, total) trainee level, total trainees, underrepresented trainees
 - Up to six trainee career outcomes

Thesis Adviser: Application Components Continued

- **Grants list** including support to fund student's project for duration of their degree program
- **Letter of support** that details evidence of student's
 - Promise as a scientist
 - Potential for leadership in the scientific community
 - Commitment to advancing equity and inclusion in science (*limit 2 pgs.*)
- **Mentoring plan**
 - specific to student applicant as well as general mentoring philosophy
 - conflict resolution strategy
 - narrative on what adviser hopes to gain from HHMI mentorship skills development course and how they will assess impact of course on their mentoring
- **Equity and inclusion statement**
 - adviser's role in fostering healthy academic scientific environments
 - specific ways adviser has advanced equity and inclusion during their career
- **Adviser's allowance: proposed activities**
 - aimed at building healthy and inclusive training environment for graduate students in department or institution
 - Planned and led by adviser

Student: Application Components

- **Applicant information:** including educational history (transcripts not required)
- **Science contributions:** up to five contributions to science, can include publications, presentations, participation in organized activities
- **Dissertation research project overview:** written to be understood by a scientist outside applicant's field, with relevant literature cited
(limit 3 pgs including text, figures, diagrams, and references)
- **Equity and inclusion statement:** applicant's commitment to advancing equity and inclusion in science, as evidenced by activities and/or experiences; plans to advance equity and inclusion in science in their future career
- **Career statement:** (i) applicant's professional and personal goals and how Gilliam award will help them explore and/or achieve those goals; (ii) their plan for identifying and working towards short- and long-term career goals, including how they are working with their adviser and others to do so
- **Student resources:** description of emotional and mental well-being resources available to student on campus and a conflict resolution strategy
- **Additional Reference:** student adds to application (e.g., prior research adviser)

Evaluation and Selection

Application evaluated by panels of scientists and leaders in graduate education and student training

Four Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability of student to formulate and creatively pursue interesting scientific problem(s), and their ability to clearly communicate these ideas
2. Commitment of student to advancing equity and inclusion in science as demonstrated by their activities and/or their experiences that have shaped their leadership philosophy on equity and inclusion, and communication of how they plan to contribute to equity and inclusion in science in their future career
3. Demonstrated commitment of thesis adviser to develop as an effective mentor
4. Demonstrated commitment of adviser to advancing equity and inclusion in science and their role in helping to foster a healthy academic scientific ecosystem for all constituencies (e.g., students, postdocs, early career faculty) at their institution

FAQs

1. Are international students eligible? *No, not at this time*
2. Are students with a green card pending eligible? *Depends – would need to have permanent residency at time of award acceptance*
3. Can student who is in fourth year in program but third year in their lab be eligible? *No, student must currently be in second or third year of PhD, counting all years in program*
4. Is each adviser limited to a specific number of applicants? *No*
5. Is each institution limited to a specific number of applicants? *No*
6. Can previous applicants re-apply? *Yes*
7. Adviser moving to different institution than Fellow, can they still apply? *Gilliam award goes to adviser's institution and to administer the award, funds must be disbursed to the Fellow as well as the institution. Because of this, the adviser and Fellow must be at the same institution.*
8. Are those in clinical training eligible (e.g., MD or DVM doing PhD)? *No*

Questions

Email: gilliam@hhmi.org

Web: hhmi.org/gilliam

Please consult the [2024 Gilliam Program Announcement](#) for additional information