

Program Update: HHMI regrets to announce that we are delaying the Finalist Symposium and award start dates for the Hanna Gray Fellows 2020 Competition. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic we have decided to delay the Symposium and Panel meeting until December 13 – 16, 2020. Fellowship funding for the selected fellows will start as early as February 16, 2021.

Please return to the [Hanna Gray Fellows program page](#) for program updates as they become available. [Subscribe to HHMI News](#) to receive announcements of future HHMI competitions. For more about HHMI’s response to the pandemic, see [hhmi.org](#).

2020 Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Please see Program Booklet and the Components of the Application posted at www.hhmi.org/hanna-h-gray-fellows for complete information regarding eligibility and program design.

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A-Doctoral Training Eligibility

A.1 [degree completion date]

I am a graduate student who is trying to determine whether I will complete my PhD (or other doctoral degree) in time for this round of competition. Which date should I use for completion of my doctoral degree in the application Eligibility section?

In the Eligibility section, you must use the university's conferral date of your PhD (or other doctoral degree) for the completion date of your degree. We will require your university to verify this conferral date.

If you are a current graduate student, the date or anticipated date of conferral of your doctoral degree must be on or after September 1, 2018, and before January 19, 2021, which is the last day to start the award. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only: (1) in cases of military service (not involving postdoctoral training), or (2) family and medical leave from an employer. Appropriate institutional documentation will be required. To request an exception, please contact us through the online application system after you receive a reply that you are not eligible due to exceeding the 16-month limit since award of your doctoral degree.

A.2 [limit of 16 months postdoctoral training]

I have a PhD (and do not have an MD, DVM, or other professional degree). I have already begun my postdoctoral training. The program announcement states that an eligible applicant can have no more than 16 months of postdoctoral experience by the application due date. How can I determine whether my postdoctoral training fits this 16-month limit?

The application does not request information about the number of months of postdoctoral training because our eligibility is determined by the conferral date of your PhD award. In the Eligibility section, you must use the university's conferral date of your PhD (or other doctoral degree) for the completion date of your degree. We will require your university to verify this conferral date.

The date of conferral of your doctoral degree must be on or after September 1, 2018. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only: (1) in cases of military service (not involving postdoctoral training), or (2) family and medical leave from an employer. Appropriate institutional documentation will be required. To request an exception, please contact us through the online application system after you receive a reply that you are not eligible due to exceeding the 16-month limit since award of your doctoral degree.

A.3 [break in training]

After receiving my PhD, I did not hold a postdoctoral position for a length of time. Can this length of time be excluded from the 16-month limit?

If you have a PhD (and do not have an MD, DVM, or other professional degree), then the PhD degree conferral date determines your eligibility, irrespective of what kind of activity filled the time subsequent to the conferral of your degree.

The date of conferral of your doctoral degree must be on or after September 1, 2018. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only: (1) in cases of military service (not involving postdoctoral training), or (2) family and medical leave from an employer. Appropriate institutional documentation will be required. To request an exception, please contact us through the online application system after you receive a reply that you are not eligible due to exceeding the 16-month limit since award of your doctoral degree.

A.4 [training with doctoral mentor]

After receiving my PhD, I started postdoctoral training with my PhD thesis mentor, but plan to change to a new mentor for this application. Do the months of training with my PhD thesis mentor count in the 16-month limit of postdoctoral training?

If you have a PhD (and you do not have an MD, DVM, or other professional degree), then the degree conferral date determines your eligibility, irrespective of what kind of activity filled the time since this date. Postdoctoral training with your PhD mentor would be one such activity.

Your date or anticipated date of conferral of your doctoral degree must be on or after September 1, 2018, and before January 19, 2021. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only: (1) in cases of military service (not involving postdoctoral training), or (2) family and medical leave from an employer. Appropriate institutional documentation will be required. To request an exception, please contact us through the online application system after you receive a reply that you are not eligible due to exceeding the 16-month limit since award of your doctoral degree.

B-Medical Training Eligibility

B.1 [limit of 16 months postdoctoral training]

I have received an MD or MD/PhD and have a goal to become an independent academic researcher. I am uncertain about meeting the requirement to have less than 16 months of postdoctoral training by the application due date.

If you are an MD or MD/PhD in a residency, a clinical fellowship, or in postdoctoral training, you must have less than 16 months of postdoctoral training by January 8, 2020; therefore, your start date or anticipated start date of your postdoctoral training must be after September 1, 2018. The earliest award start date for postdoctoral training is September 15, 2020, and the latest is January 19, 2021. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only: (1) in cases of military service (not involving postdoctoral training), or (2) family and medical leave. Appropriate institutional documentation will be required. To request an exception, please contact us through the online application system after you receive a reply that you are not eligible due to exceeding the 16-month limit of postdoctoral training. See Question B.2 for definition of postdoctoral training following medical training.

B.2 [definition of postdoctoral training]

I have received an MD or MD/PhD and have a goal to become an independent academic researcher. I am uncertain which years of research activity during my training can be supported by this award.

For the purposes of this award, research activities during your residency or clinical fellowship are not considered postdoctoral training. The clinical fellowship training is defined as the standard accreditation training for a clinical specialty. These training years do not count towards the 16-month limit of postdoctoral training. These training years cannot be supported by this award.

Hanna H. Gray Fellows awards must support at least two years of postdoctoral training with 75% research effort prior to an application for the independent faculty phase of the award. We recommend that you review the guidelines for the independent faculty award in the 2020 Program Booklet at www.hhmi.org/hanna-h-gray-fellows.

C-Underrepresented Status

C.1 [underrepresented group]

I am uncertain about my eligibility based on the underrepresented status of the group to which I belong.

We encourage you to read the [Components of the Application](#) document for additional details regarding eligibility criteria related to selection of categories of underrepresented status. We next request that you log in to the online application site (<http://www.hhmi.org/research/application/fellow2020>) and complete the Eligibility section to determine if you are eligible to submit an application. The application requests that you provide a statement explaining the reason for your selection of underrepresented status. This statement may be used to assess eligibility, but will not be provided to reviewers or used for evaluative purposes.

C.2 [disadvantaged background]

I am unsure whether my eligibility can be based on my disadvantaged background.

We encourage you to read the [Components of the Application](#) document for additional details regarding eligibility criteria related to disadvantaged background. We next request that you log in to the online application site (<http://www.hhmi.org/research/application/fellow2020>) and complete the Eligibility section to determine if you are eligible to submit an application. The application requests that you provide a statement explaining the reason for your selection of underrepresented status, including disadvantaged background. This statement may be used to assess eligibility, but will not be provided to reviewers or used for evaluative purposes. Documentation may be requested later in the process.

D-Scientific Area of Research

D.1 [appropriateness of research project]

I am uncertain whether my planned research will be supported by the Hanna H. Gray Fellows program.

Your research for the proposed award period should be in one of the following disciplines:

*Biochemistry
Bioengineering
Biophysics
Cancer Biology
Cell Biology
Chemical Biology
Chemistry
Computational Biology*

*Developmental Biology
Epidemiology
Evolutionary Biology
Genetics
Immunology
Medicine & Translational
Microbiology
Molecular Biology*

*Neuroscience
Parasitology
Pharmacology
Physiology
Plant Biology
Structural Biology
Systems Biology
Virology*

D.2 [clinical and human studies]

Will research in the areas of non-laboratory-based research, including health services research, clinical outcomes research, human behavioral studies, and human epidemiology, be supported?

No, these areas of endeavor are not intended for support by the Hanna H. Gray Fellows program.

D.3 [ecology and environmental studies]

Will research in ecology or environmental studies be supported?

No, these areas of endeavor are not intended for support by the Hanna H. Gray Fellows program.