GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS for ADVANCED STUDY

2017 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Application Deadline: February 2, 2017
Award Notification: June 2017
Fellowship Term Begins: September 1, 2017
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. 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 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, including 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 helping young scientists with exceptional promise engage in high-quality graduate training.

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.

ELIGIBILITY

HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study are open to PhD students who are (i) motivated toward careers as academic scientists, (ii) from racial, ethnic, and other underrepresented groups in the sciences, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, 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. The following definitions are provided to assist the nominators.

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. The NIH defines disadvantaged as 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.

The Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study will support students for up to three years of their dissertation research, typically in years three, four, and five of their PhD studies. Applicants must be in their second or third year of a PhD program in the life sciences or related sciences and have identified a thesis adviser. They must have advanced to candidacy before appointment. Students who are enrolled in an MD/PhD (e.g., Medical Scientist Training Program) program are not eligible.

Applicants will come from two groups:

- Alumni of HHMI’s Exceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP), regardless of institution, country of origin, or nationality, or
- Nominating institutions selected by HHMI; each nominated student must be training grant eligible but does not need to have been on the nominator’s training grant.

LOCATION OF STUDY

EXROP alumni will be enrolled in a PhD or equivalent program at any institution of higher education. Students who are nominated by other institutions will conduct their research at the nominating institution.

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 thesis adviser, 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 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. In no case will more than three years of support be provided.

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

For the 2017–2018 fellowship year, the total amount awarded to each Gilliam Fellow is $46,000. HHMI will provide the funds to the fellowship institution, which in turn will pay the fellow.

The annual stipend is $33,000. There is no dependency allowance. 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.

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 normally 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 come from the institutional allowance, which is part of this award.

Gilliam fellows are not permitted to supplement the stipend by private employment or consulting work, or to receive significant funds from other fellowship or scholarship sources. However, the institution may supplement the HHMI stipend in accordance with its usual policy for comparable graduate students.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study are awarded on the basis of the candidate’s promise as a scientific investigator, potential for leadership in the scientific community, and commitment to diversity. The applicant’s qualifications and the mentoring environment, as described in the nomination letter and the mentor’s letter, will be assessed by a panel of scientists and scientist educators selected by HHMI. The final selection of fellows will be made by HHMI based on the recommendations of the panel. Unattributed reviewers’ comments will be made available to the applicants after the competition conclusion.

DEFERRAL OF AWARD

HHMI recognizes that students may be applying for and awarded multiple fellowships. If you are awarded another graduate fellowship, program staff will work with you and your institution to determine how and when to activate the Gilliam Fellowship.
The Gilliam Fellowship is intended to support the student for up to a total of three years. A student may choose to accept funding from another agency and defer the Gilliam Fellowship for a year; in this case, HHMI will provide two years of support. If a student wishes to defer the HHMI fellowship, the student should contact HHMI as soon as possible.

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Gilliam Fellows are required to be enrolled full time in a program leading to a PhD or equivalent degree in the life sciences or related sciences, including mathematics and physical sciences. 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. Recipients of HHMI’s Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study may begin the fellowship no earlier than September 1, 2017. Upon request, HHMI may grant a deferral of the fellowship. Deferrals will be granted 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 PhD or equivalent degree. In addition, the fellow will be required to submit to HHMI an annual progress report. Any change in thesis adviser, area of research, or fellowship institution will require prior HHMI approval for continuation of the fellowship.

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. 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 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.

NOMINATION

All applicants must be nominated. EXROP alumni will arrange for a nomination submission from the student’s graduate program.

The number of nominee slots provided to an institution will be determined by HHMI. The nominee should be NIGMS T-32 training grant eligible but need not be supported by the nominator’s training grant. Application for the fellowship by a former EXROP student who is part of a graduate program supported by a nominating institution selected by HHMI does not affect the ability of the institution to nominate another student. All nominations must be submitted to HHMI via the HHMI online Competition System (http://www.hhmi.org/competitions). Log-in information will be provided to each person eligible to nominate a student. The deadline for nominations is November 18, 2016.

The nomination will include the following information:

- How the nominee fits the eligibility requirements;
- Evidence that the program, either the training grant or its graduate program, is able and willing to develop a diverse and inclusive talent pool and is a good match for the nominee’s professional interests. Demographic characteristics of the program may be provided;
- 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;
- Evidence that the nominee’s PhD adviser has the interest, demonstrated ability, and commitment to successfully develop the talents of students, including those from underrepresented groups; and
- Evidence that the nominee shows high promise as a scientific investigator, potential for leadership in the scientific community, and commitment to diversity.

The nomination will be part of the application reviewed by the selection panel.

APPLICATION

A complete application will include the following information:

1. Applicant information, including name, current and permanent addresses, email address, and other pertinent contact information;
2. Educational history, including names of all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended, dates of attendance, and degrees obtained;
3. A list of publications, with the applicant’s role described;
4. A list of honors and awards;

5. A dissertation research plan with relevant literature cited;

6. A leadership statement describing how the applicant will contribute to the advancement of inclusiveness in science and increase diversity in the professoriate; and

7. Three letters of reference, which will include
   - The letter of nomination, submitted earlier.
   - A letter from the PhD adviser (if the student has a co-mentor, a letter will also be required from him/her). The adviser’s letter should include the justification for support of the applicant, including his or her scientific potential and how the applicant’s success will advance the scientific careers of underrepresented students generally. The adviser’s letter must include a detailed mentoring plan for the applicant and evidence that the adviser is an effective mentor. The letter should also include a statement of agreement by the adviser(s) to attend two meetings at HHMI headquarters over the three years of the fellowship, with expenses paid by HHMI.
   - A letter from a scientist who is neither the nominator nor the thesis adviser—typically a faculty member in the graduate program—who can speak to the applicant’s potential as a scientist.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that letters from referees are submitted to HHMI by the deadline.

**DEADLINES**

Nomination: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), November 18, 2016

Application: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), February 2, 2017

Letters of Recommendation: 2 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), February 2, 2017

All materials must be submitted via HHMI’s online Competition System (www.hhmi.org/competitions).

Voice: 301-215-8511 or 800-448-4882, ext. 8511
Email: Gilliam@hhmi.org

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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