

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE



2016

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**



INSTITUTIONAL NOMINATION DEADLINE: November 17, 2015

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 11, 2016

AWARD NOTIFICATION: June 2016

FELLOWSHIPS BEGIN: September 1, 2016

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

www.hhmi.org

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a medical research organization that plays a powerful role in advancing scientific research and education in the United States. Its scientists, located across the country and around the world, have made important discoveries that advance both human health and our fundamental understanding of biology. The Institute also aims to transform science education into a creative, interdisciplinary endeavor that reflects the excitement of real research.

HHMI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

HHMI is committed to the development of the most talented researchers studying in U.S. graduate institutions regardless of their country of origin. The HHMI International Student Research Fellowships support outstanding international graduate students who have the potential to be research pioneers and scientific innovators. The fellowships will support the research training of international predoctoral students, who are ineligible for fellowship or training grant support through federal agencies, in the biomedical and other disciplines in which the student's project is directly related to the life sciences.

HHMI will award three-year fellowships to students while they are engaged in their doctoral dissertation research. U.S. institutions designated by HHMI will **nominate** students who

- have demonstrated exceptional talent and innovation in research,
- are currently in the second (or third) year of graduate study at a designated U.S. institution,
- have entered a laboratory in which they will conduct their dissertation research, and
- are *NOT* U.S. citizens, noncitizen nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.

Fellowship Term

The term of the fellowship will be three years. Continuation of support beyond the initial year will be contingent on annual demonstration to HHMI that the fellow has made appropriate research and academic progress in the previous year. The term must be for three *consecutive* years unless an approved leave of absence is granted by the fellowship institution and HHMI. *In no case will more than three years of support be provided, nor will support be provided beyond year five of a student's doctoral program.*

Stipends and Allowances

For the 2016–2017 fellowship year, HHMI will provide each International Student Research Fellow with an annual stipend of \$30,000, which will be administered and distributed by the host institution. The stipend may be supplemented by the host institution in accordance with its usual policies for comparable graduate students. However, fellows are not generally allowed to be employed, engage in consulting activities for pay, or receive funds from another external fellowship, scholarship, or similar award.

In addition, HHMI will provide an annual fellow's allowance of \$3,000, which may be used for health insurance (if not an assessed fee by the institution), health care expenses, books and supplies, journal subscriptions, computer-related expenses, travel to scientific meetings, professional fees or dues, tuition for special courses, and other purposes relevant to a fellow's

study. The fellow's allowance may not be used by the institution to pay for any institutional fees or research costs.

HHMI will also provide an annual institutional allowance of \$10,000 in lieu of all tuition and fees. Fellowship institutions must agree that fellows are exempt from paying tuition and fees normally charged to graduate students of similar academic standing, even if tuition and fees exceed the amount provided by HHMI. If it is mandatory for students to hold health insurance, the institution agrees to cover health insurance premium costs using the institutional allowance.

Evaluation and Selection

Fellows will be chosen based on their promise as a scientific investigator. Many factors will be assessed. The most influential will be the candidate's summary of his or her thesis research and the level of innovation and creativity demonstrated by the student. Also important will be recommendation letters, which give evidence of the candidate's talent as a scientific leader and innovator, and the mentoring plan by the thesis adviser. Candidates must provide an unofficial graduate transcript.

Conditions of Appointment

The fellowship term will begin September 1, 2016. Fellows are required to be enrolled full time in a program leading to a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the biomedical or related sciences, including physical and mathematical sciences. The graduate

program may include a limited amount of teaching or similar professional development activities. However, scholarly development of the fellow, not service to the fellowship institution, should govern participation of the fellow in such activities.

Continuation of the fellowship beyond the initial year is contingent on the fellowship institution's certification that the fellow has made satisfactory progress toward a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Additionally, fellows will be required to submit an annual progress report to HHMI. Students pursuing a combined professional degree, such as an M.D./Ph.D., are eligible but they will be supported only during their Ph.D. research and study.

Fellows are expected to conduct research according to the highest scientific and ethical standards and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies concerning protection of human research subjects, humane care and use of laboratory animals, laboratory safety, and conflict of interest. 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 only the most basic program information. All fellowships are subject to the provisions contained in the Information for HHMI International Student Research Fellows and Fellowship Institutions booklet and any further documentation provided by HHMI.

Nomination Process

All Ph.D.-granting institutions currently hosting one or more HHMI investigator will be allowed to nominate candidates and host fellows in this program. HHMI will base the number of nominations each institution will be allocated on the number of recent

graduates in the sciences. HHMI will inform the designated institutional official of the procedure and will provide an institution-specific URL for submitting the list of nominees for the competition. Nominators must also submit a letter for each nominee that addresses the nominee's potential to be a scientific leader and innovator.

Institutions must coordinate the nomination process so that only a single list of names is submitted by the institution. Once the nominee list has been accepted, HHMI will provide the individual students with the information needed to complete an online application.

Application Process

Applications will be submitted online using HHMI's Web-based competition system at www.hhmi.org/competitions. Submission of all applicant material including graduate transcripts and reference letters must be made using the HHMI online system. Applicants will upload unofficial graduate transcripts directly into the competition system.

A complete application will consist of the following:

1. Applicant information, including name, contact information, and email address.
2. Graduate degree information, including name of department/program, date of entry into the graduate program, and name and email address of the dissertation advisor(s).
3. List and description of any other funding the applicant is receiving to include: funding from the home institution, from the government of his/her home country, and other external awards.
4. Description of intended dissertation research, including a brief discussion of the *significance and innovation of the intended*

research project, a limited bibliography of key references.

5. A list of publications and presentations with applicant's role in the publication described.
6. A list of honors and awards that the applicant has received.
7. Personal statement reflecting career goals in relation to the applicant's thesis work and how the fellowship will affect attainment of the goals.
8. Letters of reference (three are required, four are permitted). One letter must be from the applicant's dissertation advisor. If the applicant has two advisors, both should submit letters. Other letters should be from those who can speak best to the applicant's potential as a researcher. These letters must be uploaded into the competition system by the reference writer. Instructions will be provided to each individual selected as a reference.
9. Educational history, including names of all colleges and universities attended, dates of attendance, and degrees obtained.
10. Unofficial graduate transcripts (to be uploaded by the applicant).

Applicants should retain a copy of all application materials. Applicants will be responsible for ensuring that the reference letters are uploaded into the competition system by the reference writers by February 4, 2016. Note that incomplete applications are at a disadvantage in the competition and may not be evaluated.

Important Deadlines/Dates

Institutional nomination:
November 17, 2015

Online application submission:
2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on
February 11, 2016

Applicant award notification:
June 2016

Contacting Program Staff

Correspondence regarding the International Student Research Fellowships should be directed to:

Megan Lassig, Program and Special Projects Coordinator

Email: predoc@hhmi.org

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT 2016

<http://www.hhmi.org/programs/international-student-research-fellowships>

Institutional nomination deadline:

November 17, 2015

Application deadline:

February 11, 2016

Award notification:

June 2016

Fellowships begin:

September 1, 2016



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