



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



- 1. Q: I am doing my dissertation research at an institution listed but am actually enrolled in a PhD program which is not listed, am I eligible to be nominated?**
A: No, you must be enrolled in a PhD program at one of the institutions listed on the [Designated Institutions and Nominators](#) document to be eligible for nomination.
- 2. Q: I am a 4th year PhD student, am I eligible to be nominated or to apply?**
A: No, you must be in the 2nd or 3rd year of your Ph.D. program to be nominated by your institution or to submit an application. The fellowship is designed to support PhD students (or MD/PhD students) in years three, four, and five of their doctoral program.
- 3. Q: I am in my 4th year of the PhD program but switched labs, so this is only my 3rd year in my current lab, am I eligible?**
A: No, eligibility is based on the year you started your PhD program, not how long you have been in a particular lab.
- 4. Q: If my year in my PhD program is not clear, am I able to request that HHMI review my specific situation?**
A: All requests must be sent to HHMI via email to predoc@hhmi.org by the person listed in the [Designated Institutions and Nominators](#) document. Neither individual graduate students nor individual thesis advisors may submit requests to HHMI, unless the student has already been nominated by the institution.
- 5. Q: I am currently attending one of the institutions on the designated list; however, my area of research does not fall under the biomedical or related sciences, am I still eligible to apply?**
A: You may only apply to the program if your thesis project is related to biomedical science and your mentor (or co-mentor) has a strong biomedical research component to his/her research as well.
- 6. Q: How can I be nominated by my institution?**
A: Each institution has its own nomination process. Please contact your department chair or the [designated nominator](#) at your institution for additional information.
- 7. My institution is not on the designated nominator list. Can I still apply? How can my institution be added?**
A: Unfortunately, for this program, our rules are that nominations must be from institutions that are host to an HHMI investigator. If you are not receiving your PhD from one of the designated institutions, you are not eligible to apply for the fellowship.

- 8. Q: I read the eligibility on the website and I am eligible to apply, how can I get an application?**
A: You must be nominated by your institution through the specific nomination process determined by your institution. Please contact the designated nominator at your institution (found here: [Designated Institutions and Nominators](#)) or your department chair to find out the specific process at your institution.
- 9. Q: How will I receive information about the application process once I am nominated?**
A: Once you have been nominated by your institution, you will receive an invitation to apply with a link to the web-based application. If you want to start to prepare for the application process this fall, you can find a list of the application requirements in the Program Information Brochure under the “Application Process” section.
- 10. Q: Where do I send my reference letters?**
A: Letters of reference and all other application materials are submitted electronically via the HHMI Competition System. Once you have been nominated by your institution, you will receive an invitation with a link to the web-based application. Please do not mail any materials to HHMI.
- 11. Q: Can I submit my application before my references have completed their letters?**
A: Yes. Although both the application and the reference letters have the same deadline, the submission processes are separate. Your references can continue to submit their letters (up to the deadline), after you have submitted your application.
- 12. Q: Where can I find the formatting guidelines for the research plan?**
A: Information on margins, font size/type, and character/line spacing can be found on the “Research Plan” page of the HHMI Competition System application. There is a link that says: Click here for formatting requirements. Formatting instructions for all other parts of the application (such as text limits) are found at the beginning of each section.
- 13. Q: What should be included in the personal statement?**
A: Students should describe the applicant’s career goals, keeping in mind how his/her current thesis work informs those goals and how the HHMI fellowship will affect the attainment of those goals.
- 14. Q: Can students apply more than once to the fellowship?**
A: Yes, provided that you are nominated for the second time by your designated institution and satisfy the other annual eligibility requirements.
- 15. Q: Are any indirect costs covered under the fellowship?**
A: No, HHMI does not allow indirect costs, overhead charges, or facilities and administrative rates to be charged to the fellowship.
- 16. Q: Are students allowed to simultaneously hold any other fellowships/scholarships while under the HHMI Fellowship?**
A: Fellows are not allowed to be employed, engage in consulting activities for pay, or receive funds from another external fellowship, scholarship or similar award. However, HHMI may make an exception in the case of a one-time award or an award made by the fellowship institution that does not constitute a significant increase over the amount provided to comparable graduate students.

The Program Information Brochure will address most questions.

If you still have questions after reading the brochure, please send an email to predoc@hhmi.org.