Howard Hughes Medical Institute - International Student Research Fellowship (Fall 2015)

Department Deadline: 10/14/2015
Campus Deadline: 10/22/2015
External Deadline for Campus to submit names to HHMI: 11/17/2015
External Deadline for applications: 2/11/2016

See: https://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/listing/3305
http://www.hhmi.org/programs/international-student-research-fellowships

HHMI's International Student Research Fellowships support outstanding international predoctoral students studying in the United States who are eligible for fellowships or training grants through U.S. federal agencies. Fellowships support students in biomedical or related sciences, including physical and mathematical sciences. Eligible biomedical-related fields include biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science, engineering, and plant biology—as well as interdisciplinary research. Students should apply only if their dissertation project is related to biomedical science and if their advisor (or co-advisor) has a strong biomedical component to his/her research.

HHMI expects to fund 46 new fellowships for the 2016-2017 academic year. Each fellow will receive an annual stipend of $30,000 plus a $3,000 fellow's allowance which may be used for health insurance, books, travel to scientific meetings, and other purposes relevant to the fellow's study. An institutional allowance of $10,000 is also provided, which will operate in lieu of tuition and fees.

"Fellows will be chosen based on their promise of becoming a leader in the scientific community. Many factors will be assessed. The most important will be the candidate's summary of his or her proposed thesis research and the level of innovation and creativity demonstrated by the student."

Eligibility. PhD students who:

- have demonstrated exceptional talent and innovation in research,
- are in the second or third year of doctoral* study,
- have entered a laboratory in which they will conduct their dissertation research, and
- are U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.

Applications from CS students working in bioinformatics and on applications relevant to biomedical science are especially encouraged.

*Grad College and HHMI do use "graduate study" in some places. However, questions 2 and 3 of the FAQ make it clear what HHMI intends. In addition, "To activate the fellowship (after winning), the student must be in the 3rd or 4th year of a Ph.D. program in the biomedical or related sciences (including CS) at a designated nominating institution." http://www.hhmi.org/grants/individuals/intl_fellows.html

Each department is limited to three nominees.

Please ensure that the following materials are submitted by 5pm on 10/14/2015 to Colin Robertson (colinnr@illinois.edu, 2233 SC):

1) Nomination Form (Only Sections: "Student Information" and "Schools Attended". Do not complete "Ranked" and "Nominator Information").

2) Your Curriculum Vitae (maximum 4 pages, at least 11 point font).

3) Description of Intended Dissertation Research. A 3-page narrative should describe your intended dissertation research, including a discussion of the significance and innovation of your project. The narrative must be single-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Note that reviewers will be knowledgeable scientists, but they are unlikely to specialize in your particular research area. Therefore, your narrative must be written in a manner that can be understood by a non-expert. An additional 2-page bibliography containing key references can accompany the narrative. The Description of Intended Dissertation Research must:

- Present the overarching goal and specific aims of your proposed research.
- State the testable hypothesis or engineering objective.
- Explain, to the non-expert, why the project is important. The significance of the project must be made extremely clear.
- Explain and justify your specific approach (your model system). Show how your approach is potentially innovative or transformational.
- Describe your procedures/experiments in detail and state expected outcomes.
- Note potential pitfalls and discuss alternative strategies.
- Specify your role and that of your advisor and others in the development of the research plan and in the writing of the proposal.

3) Personal Statement. The Personal Statement should explain your career goals in relation to your thesis work and show how the fellowship will affect attainment of your goals. The Personal Statement should be one-page maximum, single-spaced, in 12 point Times News Roman font, with one-inch margins.

4) Three Letters of Reference. One of the letters must be from your advisor. If you have co-advisors, each must write letters. Letters should speak to your potential to become a scientific leader in terms of innovation, talent, creativity, excellent communication skills, perseverance, etc. (Also, included in the letter from your advisor should be a brief assessment of your English skills, both written and spoken.)
Note: Electronic documents are preferred and should be submitted as PDFs, Word documents, or plain-text files. Letters of recommendation should be sent from the letter writer directly to colinr@illinois.edu. Students, please include your netid in the filename(s) of any email attachments. I recommend that students submit their CVs and statement(s) to their letter writers at least a week prior to the department deadline.