

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS  
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT **2012**



**Institutional nomination deadline: December 1, 2011**

**Application deadline: February 9, 2012**

**Award notification: June 2012**

**Fellowships begin: September 1, 2012**

**HHMI**  
HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

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## HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

[www.hhmi.org](http://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 are designed to facilitate the research training of outstanding international predoctoral students (who are ineligible for fellowship or training grant support through federal agencies) in the biomedical and related sciences, including physical and mathematical 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 for research,
- are currently in the second (or third) year of graduate study,
- 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.

**Note: No preference will be given to students who are working in an HHMI laboratory or who are under the mentorship of an HHMI investigator or HHMI early career scientist.**

### 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 2012–2013 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, 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.

### 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 proposed 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 exceptional talent as a researcher and descriptions of the candidate's previous research and other accomplishments. Candidates must provide either an undergraduate or unofficial graduate transcript.

### Conditions of Appointment

The fellowship term will begin September 1, 2012. 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 investigators or the recipient of a current HHMI graduate training grant 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 all relevant doctoral programs. 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. 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 candidates 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](http://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 undergraduate or graduate transcripts directly into the competition system. HHMI will verify graduate transcripts with the nominating institution and will confirm scores with the appropriate test provider.

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. 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, and a list of any publications (including submitted or in press) or presentations resulting from the thesis research.
4. Research experiences, including dates, project summary, and the applicant's role in the project. If applicable, a list of publications or presentations resulting from each research experience should be included.
5. List of relevant honors, awards, and professional activities.
6. 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.

7. Educational history, including names of all colleges and universities attended, dates of attendance, and degrees obtained.
8. 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 9, 2012. Note that incomplete applications are at a disadvantage in the competition and may not be evaluated.

### Important Deadlines/Dates

Institutional nomination:  
December 1, 2011

Online application submission:  
2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time  
on February 9, 2012

Applicant award notification:  
June 2012

### Contacting Program Staff

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

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Senior Program Officer or  
Megan Lassig, Program Assistant  
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[www.hhmi.org/intl\\_fellows](http://www.hhmi.org/intl_fellows)

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