Training Opportunities at the National Institutes of Health

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What Am I?
I am the Training Director for the National Eye Institute (NEI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

What I Do
• Work with trainees of all experience levels (high school to postdoc)
  o Logistics
  o Career Development
  o Mentoring

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What is the NIH?
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27 Institutes and Centers (IC)
The NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP)
Training Opportunities Available at the NIH Intramural Research Program

Training Positions include:
• Student (summer student)
• Postbaccalaureate Fellow
• Predoctoral Fellow (graduate and medical student)
• Postdoctoral Fellow
• Clinical Fellow (post-residency)

Information about the different trainee positions can be found at:
NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE)
www.training.nih.gov/programs
Training Opportunities I

Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research (SIP)
For students 17 years of age or older who are currently enrolled at least half-time in high school, college, graduate or professional school.

• Application opens Mid-November, closes March 1.
• Apply centrally, then contact principal investigators or summer program coordinators.

Information on labs can be found:
NEI: nei.nih.gov/research/research-labs-and-branches
NIH: irp.nih.gov/our-research/principal-investigators
A Note about Reaching Out

• Do your homework!
  o Make sure you read up on what the lab does, read their papers.
• Send **individual, targeted** emails to principal investigators.
  o Mention the research.
  o Mention your interests and future plans.
  o Tie the above two points together!
• Be patient.
  o Send the email and let it go…
  o Do a follow-up after 7-10 days
  o If you don’t hear back, that’s it.*

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*Unless you really want to join that lab in which case you can write once more
Training Opportunities II

Postbaccalaureate Fellowship
For college graduates (<3 years since Bachelor’s or <6 months after Master’s) who intend to apply to graduate/professional school. For U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

• Conduct research at NIH for up to two years.
• Central application, but important to reach out to principal investigators.

NIH Academy – subprogram for focused on health disparities.
Training Opportunities III

Undergraduate Scholarship Program
For students from disadvantaged backgrounds accepted or enrolled full-time at an accredited 4-year undergraduate U.S. institution, committed to biomedical, behavioral, or social science health-related research careers.

• Up to $20K an academic year for tuition & expenses, renewable up to 4 years.

• 10-week summer internship & a year of full-time employment for every year of support required.
Training Opportunities IV

Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP)
Allows graduate students to do their Ph.D. thesis dissertation at the NIH.
• Open to U.S. citizens, Permanent Residents, and International Students.

Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP)
A year-off research fellowship for medical students wanting more research experience.
Training Opportunities V

Postdoctoral Fellowship
For U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international scholars who have recently completed a doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., etc.) in the biomedical sciences.

• Conduct research at NIH for up to five years.

• Postings can be found on the OITE website, various institute websites, and in major journals.
Training Opportunities VI

Clinical Fellowship
Post-residency fellowships for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international scholars with a medical degree and U.S. medical license.

• Conduct research at NIH for up to three years.

• See patients from a unique clinical population.

• Postings can be found on various institute websites and at the San Francisco Match program (sfmatch.org).
NIH Pathways Program

• For current students enrolled in high school, college, university or recent graduates.
  o For recent graduates, must be within two years of their last degree.
• Openings available for engineering, administrative, and scientific positions.
• Open to U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents. International students may apply, but to be eligible for conversion (permanent position) must be U.S. citizen.
• Openings are posted at usajobs.gov.
Jobs at NIH

• Postings for most federal positions can be found at www.usajobs.gov.
  o Positions for GS (General Scale) are open to U.S. Citizens and Nationals (permanent residency will not suffice).

• Title 42 appointments for some investigators and scientific staff (only applicable to NIH) do not have citizenship requirement, but are not on USAJobs.

• NIH also hires contractors for many positions, including IT ones.
  o Kelly Services is one of the largest contract companies.

• For additional information and postings, visit:
  o NIH: hr.nih.gov/jobs
  o NEI: nei.nih.gov/research/jobs-and-training-opportunities-nei
  o Individual Institute websites
  o Academic Journals & Scientific Organizations
  o Job websites (Monster, CareerBuilder, etc.)
Types of Positions at the NIH

- Principal Investigators
- Staff Scientists & Clinicians
- Biologists and Chemists
- Nurses
- Technicians
- Program and Review Officers for grants
- Administrators
- Budget Analysts
- Communications Specialists
- IT Developers and Support

Any many more…
What We Look For

• Organizational skills
  o Project management
  o Time management

• Communication skills
  o Networking

• Critical thinking/Intellectual curiosity
  o Good grades help, but don’t tell the whole story

• A desire to help shape the biomedical enterprise and contribute to the health and well-being of the United States and the World.
Information can be found at:

- NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE)
  training.nih.gov/programs
- NIH Intramural Research Program
  irp.nih.gov
- NIH Jobs
  hr.nih.gov/jobs
- NIH Intramural Annual Report Database
  intramural.nih.gov/search/index.taf
- NEI
  nei.nih.gov/grants-and-training/training-nei

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