

Programs to Enhance Diversity in the Biomedical Sciences



NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences

What is NIGMS?

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) supports basic research that increases understanding of biological processes and lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. NIGMS provides leadership in training the next generation of scientists, in enhancing the diversity of the scientific workforce, and in developing research capacities throughout the country.

Does NIGMS offer undergraduate scholarships?

No. NIGMS does not offer undergraduate scholarships. We fund programs at colleges and universities to foster the training and development of a strong and diverse biomedical research workforce. The schools select the students to participate in these programs. See a [list of participating schools](#).

NIGMS does offer fellowships at the [graduate](#) and [postdoctoral](#) levels.

Does NIGMS support groups underrepresented in science?

Yes. NIGMS' Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity supports programs that foster the training and development of a strong and diverse biomedical workforce.

For a list of groups underrepresented in biomedical research, see the [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#).

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to be eligible for funding?

Yes. You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to be eligible for funding. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Will NIGMS pay for my medical school education?

No. NIGMS will pay for medical training only as part of the combined M.D.-Ph.D. degree, which prepares students for careers in biomedical research.



Credit: Winston-Salem State University

Biomedical science majors include:

- Biochemistry
- Bioengineering
- Biology
- Cell biology
- Chemistry
- Genetics
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Neurobiology
- Physics
- Physiology

What programs does NIGMS fund?

NIGMS supports the following institutional programs that prepare students for graduate school and beyond:

ACADEMIC LEVEL	PROGRAMS
Community College	Bridges to the Baccalaureate
Undergraduate	Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity
Post-Bachelor's	Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program
Master's	Bridges to the Doctorate
Ph.D.	Graduate Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Training Program Research Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavioral-Biomedical Sciences Interface• Biostatistics• Biotechnology• Cellular, Biochemical, and Molecular Sciences• Chemistry-Biology Interface• Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and Biomedical Data Science• Genetics• Medical Scientist Training Program (combined M.D.-Ph.D. degree)• Molecular Biophysics• Molecular Medicine• Pharmacological Sciences• Systems and Integrative Biology• Transdisciplinary Basic Biomedical Sciences
Postdoctoral	Postdoctoral Training Grant Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anesthesiology• Clinical Pharmacology• Medical Genetics• Injury and Critical Illness Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers

Does NIGMS provide funding for researchers after they complete their Ph.D.?

Yes. NIGMS offers postdoctoral fellowships and career development awards. These aim to prepare Ph.D. graduates for [research careers](#), to help jump-start academic careers ([Pathway to Independence](#)), and to mentor clinical and other scientists working in certain areas ([Mentored Clinical Career Development Awards in Anesthesiology, Clinical Pharmacology, and Trauma and Burn Injury](#) and [Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Awards](#)).

Learn More

[NIH Research and Training Opportunities](#)

[NIH Graduate Partnerships Program](#)

[NIH Loan Repayment Programs](#)

[NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program](#)

[Scholarship Programs for Medical Students](#)

NIGMS is a part of the National Institutes of Health that supports basic research to increase our understanding of biological processes and lay the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. For more information on the Institute's research and training programs, see <https://www.nigms.nih.gov>.

Content updated October 2020