



# The Microbiology and Immunology Diversity Scholars Program Handbook



The Graduate Program in Microbiology and Immunology (PMI) is excited to offer the undergraduate Microbiology and Immunology Diversity Scholars (MIDS) Program!

## **Overview:**

*The purpose of the MIDS Program is to promote diversity in STEM by engaging underrepresented minority undergraduate students in long-term biomedical and/or public health research, career development, and mentorship in preparation for graduate-level education and careers in the biomedical sciences.*

The MIDS Program provides research experience and scientific training to undergraduate Scholars from historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups. For two years (4 semesters), our Scholars engage in clinical and/or translational research projects under the guidance of experienced researchers and principal investigators in the fields of microbiology and/or immunology within the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In addition to research experience, Scholars develop scientific technical and communication skills, build relationships with mentors, attend career development seminars, and present their independent research at both in-house and national scientific conferences. Through two years of research, career development, and mentorship, Scholars develop into competitive applicants for graduate programs, specifically PhD or MD/PhD programs, immediately upon bachelor degree completion.

## **Program Structure:**

Upon acceptance into the Program, the MIDS Committee pairs each Scholar with a faculty mentor based on the Scholar's research interests indicated in the application. Scholars will remain in that lab for the entirety of the program. *Scholars are expected to be in lab a minimum of 10 hours, but no more than 15 hours, per week for 10 weeks during the Fall and Spring semesters.* Approximately 85% of their effort will be dedicated to their independent research project. The remaining 15% will be spent on the professional and academic development of the Scholar, including but not limited to: scientific writing (abstracts, manuscripts, etc.), poster and oral presentations, attending University of Pittsburgh professional and career development sessions, networking, and meeting with academic mentors or advisors. Scholars will be compensated for their time in the program (see *Compensation*).

## **Scholar Expectations:**

- Commit 10-15hrs per week in the laboratory for 10 weeks each semester
- Attend monthly MID Seminars for career and professional development
- Apply/attend 1 Pitt-sponsored scientific conference and/or 1 national scientific conference each year
- Submit an Annual Written Report detailing your laboratory project at the end of each academic year

## **Compensation:**

Scholars will be compensated \$1500 each Fall and Spring semester. Annually, Scholars will receive \$500 towards travel to a national scientific conference. Additional travel expenses will be covered by travel awards or the faculty mentor.

Funding is guaranteed for the length of the program. The first year is funded by the MIDS Program and the second year is funded by the faculty mentor.

## **Eligibility:**

Eligible students must have a strong interest in microbiology or immunology. In addition, students must:

- Be a member of a racial/ethnic group that is underrepresented in the biomedical sciences.
  - The MIDS Program adheres to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) definition of underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities in biomedical research (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>). The NIH defines the following racial and ethnic groups as underrepresented in biomedical research: *Blacks or African Americans; Hispanics or Latinos; American Indians or Alaska Natives; Native Hawaiians; and other Pacific Islanders.*
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at The University of Pittsburgh.
- Have completed at least 1 semester of undergraduate coursework.
- Be able to commit a minimum of 10 hours per week to lab work.
- Have excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

Ideal candidates have 2+ years remaining of undergraduate coursework and are interested in pursuing graduate studies in a biomedical field.

## **Application Procedure**

Applications accepted for Fall and Spring semesters. Visit the MIDS Program website (<http://www.pmi.pitt.edu/research/mid-scholars-program>) to download the Application Form. Visit our website or social media accounts for the application timeline for the current academic year.

Submit all application materials by email to [mids\\_program\\_pitt@groups.pitt.edu](mailto:mids_program_pitt@groups.pitt.edu) with the title, "MIDS Program Application – Your Name".

For more information, visit the MIDS Program website (<http://www.pmi.pitt.edu/research/mid-scholars-program>) or contact our Program Director, Dr. Partha Biswas ([psb13@pitt.edu](mailto:psb13@pitt.edu))

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