



Application for

**Medical Student Training Appled to Research
(MedSTAR)
GUIDELINES**



TIMELINES

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE EXTENDED-JANUARY 6, 2020

SELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 2020

PROGRAM START DATE IN MAY 2020.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

GOALS

- The goal of the IUSM/CTSI MedSTAR is to provide a supported mechanism for clinical and translational research opportunities available to medical students in order to strengthen and increase the cohort of physician-scientists in the workforce.
- The one-year fellowship will allow IUSM medical students to be immersed in research support for one year of full-time mentored training.
- The fellowship plans to accept up to four students each year from IUSM who are enrolled and in good standing, who have a proven interest in and commitment to biomedical research as evidenced by previous laboratory, translational, or clinical research experience such as the IMPRS Program.
- The students will be known as MedSTAR scholars.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be medical students enrolled and in good standing at IUSM. Students may apply during any year of their medical school curriculum, but it is recommended that student apply during P1Y2. All medical students, regardless of their year of training must apply for and being approved for a research or graduate leave of absence to be eligible for the program. Students must be committed to conduct 12 months of continuous, full-time research. Students who are currently enrolled in a combined degree program such as MD/PhD, MD/MBA, etc. will not be eligible.
- Previous research experience (e.g., a summer or part-time experience, such as [IMPRS](#)) is required. All applicants should have some form of extensive research experience beyond classroom/laboratory courses.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Medical student accepted into the MedSTAR program must meet with their Lead Advisor to apply for the Leave of Absence. Students will continue to meet with their Lead Advisors during the LOA to ensure they are on track for graduation when they return to the medical school curriculum.

RESEARCH AREA

The proposed project plan should be in one of the following areas of biomedical research:

- Basic Science (research conducted to understand the physical, chemical, and functional mechanisms)
- Translational Research (process of applying discoveries from basic science to the prevention, management, and treatment of diseases)
- Applied (research toward specific objectives, i.e. drug discovery, therapy, etc.)
- Clinical Research (research conducted to study the health and illness in people to learn how to prevent, diagnose, manage and treat)

RESEARCH MENTOR AND PLAN

- The applicant is responsible for identifying, engaging and securing the mentor from the IUSM. The program office will assist, but not make the arrangements. The selection of a mentor is a key component in the evaluation process.
 - Mentor must be a full-time faculty at IUSM and will directly supervise/mentor the

- applicant
 - Mentor should NOT have more than 2 students to mentor during training period
 - Mentor should have recent publications in the area of expertise proposed
 - Mentor should be experienced in the research techniques proposed
 - Mentor should have external funding from NIH or other major agencies
 - Mentor should be able to provide financial resources to support the research project
 - Mentor should have the time and interest to train the student
- Research project/plan should be realistic and practical for a 12-month period
 - Project should be rigorous, high-quality research training doing hypothesis/discovery-based and not just technical/methodology type work

TRAINING DURATION AND TERM

- 12 consecutive months (May 1-April 30)
- The MedSTAR scholar is to be engaged in research full-time
- Students will take graduate school coursework - and will not take medical school coursework or a clerkship during this one-year term.
- Students applying during P1Y2 would still be required to take Step 1 by the school's deadline. Any student who DOES NOT pass Step 1 would be released from the MedSTAR program.
- Students applying during Phase 2 would be encouraged to take Step 2 CK and CS before starting MedSTAR.

Curricular Options

- Students will undertake a combination of coursework and research. The common and most feasible pathway for students is the Graduate Certificate program. Occasionally a student may be able to complete the MS in Clinical Research, depending on the type of research they undertake. The program combinations are comprised in this way:
 - Graduate Certificate (14 credits) + 75% research time (see Table 1)
 - Master Degree (30 credits) + 50% research time (see Table 2)
- Upon acceptance into the program, the trainee and –education program director will determine the appropriate coursework/research path based on the type/intensity/scope of the research project and approval of the research mentor.

STIPEND AND ALLOWANCES

- Stipend \$29,000
- Student health insurance (coverage does not include dependents)
- Tuition remission up to \$5,000 (does not include university fees, books, or related purchases)
- Note: to be eligible for loan deferment and/or student health insurance, MedSTAR students must be enrolled in 4 credit hours per semester including Summer

EVALUATIONS AND SELECTIONS

A panel of faculty reviewers will evaluate the following:

- Applicant's ability and goal for a research career as a physician-scientist

- Quality of training (mentor identification)
- Applicant's research experience, personal statement, proposed research plan
- Letter of Reference (from the faculty member who has agreed to mentor you for the one-year training)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application will be completed online using the WebCAMP system. The link for the online form can be found [here](#).

- **Applicant's Section**
 - Contact information and basic demographic data
 - CV/Resume
 - Research Experience, Professional Activities, Honors/Awards, etc.
 - Personal Statement (one page or 500 words max)
 - Research Plan (Project Title, Research Plan Summary, Research Project Plan and citations). The Research Plan needs to be practical for a one-year training period.
- **Mentor's Section**
 - Contact Information and affiliation
 - NIH Biosketch (Training Record, Trainee Outcome, Grant Data, if available)
 - LOR (Letter of reference/recommendation/affirmation) that includes Applicant Assessment and Training Plan

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- Upon acceptance into the MedSTAR program, students will be asked to submit the following documents from the IU School of Medicine
 - LOGS (Letter of Good Standing)
 - LOA (Leave of Absence approval)
- Monthly meetings with the mentor.
- Bi-annual training progress report to the program director.
- Participate in a poster session at the Indiana CTSI Annual Meeting in FALL 2021.
- First-authored manuscript deemed suitable for publication by research mentor.
- Maintain a grade of B or higher in all the course work.

TIME LINE

- Application made available: October 2019
- Application due: End of November 2019
- Selection: Early January 2020
- Start Date: May 2020
- End Date: April 2021

For questions, please contact: imprs@iupui.edu. Include the name "MedSTAR" in the subject line.

Table 1: Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research – MedSTAR Track

Semester	Course	Course #	Credits
Summer			
	Intro to Biostatistics I	PBHL B561	3
	Mentored Clinical Research	GRDM G664	1
Fall			
	Clinical Research Methods	GRDM G660	3
	Introduction to Research Ethics	GRDM G504	3
Spring			
	Clinical Trials or Graduate Elective	GRDM G661 or ≥ 500-level course	3
	† Mentored Clinical Research	GRDM G664	1
Total			14

*Alternatively, students could take 1 credit of Mentored Clinical Research in the fall and defer their research ethics course to the spring.

Table 2: MS in Clinical Research – MedSTAR Track

Semester	Course	Course #	Credits
Summer			
	Intro to Biostatistics I	PBHL B561 (SAS)	3
	Graduate Elective	≥ 500-level course	3
	Mentored Clinical Research	GRDM G664	3
Fall			
	Clinical Research Methods	GRDM G660	3
	Introduction to Research Ethics	GRDM G504	3
	Mentored Clinical Research	GRDM G664	3
Spring			
	Clinical Trials	GRDM G661	3
	Graduate Elective	≥ 500-level course	3
	Graduate Elective	≥ 500-level course	3
	† Mentored Clinical Research	GRDM G664	3
Total			30

† Final credits of Mentored Clinical Research will be given a grade of incomplete in the spring; when all benchmarks are met in year 4 of Medical School a final letter grade will be assigned.