



Application for

Medical Student Training Applied to Research
(MedSTAR)
GUIDELINES

TIMELINES

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 31, 2021.

SELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 2022

PROGRAM START DATE IN MAY 2022.



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, and 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. 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 research experience beyond classroom/laboratory courses.

LOAN DEFERMENT AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It is recommended that medical students meet with their Lead Advisor to apply for a Leave of Absence once they are accepted into the MedSTAR program. Students will continue to meet with their Lead Advisors during the Leave of Absence to ensure they are on track for graduation when they return to the medical school curriculum.

Students who decide to not enroll the minimum of 4 credit hours per term AND have previously borrowed through Federal student loans, it is suggested to meet with someone in the financial aid office to determine the course of action needed to keep student loans in good standing after using the 6-month grace period.

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 and engaging a mentor from the IUSM. The program office may assist if needed, but is not responsible for making the arrangements. (Please direct inquiries to: imprs@iupui.edu) 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 provide the resources necessary 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 that is 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 within a range of 3 curricular options, 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 before starting MedSTAR.

Curricular Options

- Students will undertake a combination of coursework and research within this range of options:
 - 2 courses (one per semester) + 90% research time
 - Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research (14 credits) + 75% research time
 - Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Research (30 credits) + 50% research time
- Upon acceptance into the program, the trainee, mentor, and MedSTAR program director will determine the appropriate coursework/research path based on the type/intensity/scope of the research project.

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)
- Travel allowance up to \$500 for student to present research at a regional/national scientific meeting

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 Support from the faculty member who has agreed to serve as a mentor for the one-year training
- Letter of Reference from a second faculty member who can comment on the applicant's research potential

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application will be completed online using the RedCAP system. The link for the online form can be found [here](#). The applicant will be responsible to submit both sections (applicant and mentor).

- **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, Abstract and Research Project Plan; the Research Plan is limited to 1000 words and 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)
 - Applicant Assessment and Training Plan should be included in the Letter of Support

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- 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 2023.
- First authored manuscript submitted for publication.
- Maintain a grade of B or higher in all course work.

TIME LINE

- Application available: October 2021
- Application due: December 31, 2021
- Selection: End of January 2022
- Start Date: May 2022
- End Date: April 2023

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