APS Summer Research Fellowship Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is the application deadline?
   a. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 1st.

2. What is required in the one-page letter?
   a. See Application Instructions pdf document under Resources at the bottom of each program’s Application Information page for specifics.
      i. STRIDE (heart/lung/blood physiology): www.the-aps.org/STRIDE
      ii. UGSRF (< 9 months of research experience): www.the-aps.org/UGSRF

3. Can applicants upload an unofficial transcript?
   a. Yes. Note that protected (encrypted) files will not be accepted by the online awards system.
   b. Documents in PDF format are required.

4. Are students in professional programs (medical school, veterinary school, PT, etc.) eligible to apply?
   a. No, the program is open only to students enrolled in undergraduate studies. However, students in an undergraduate medical program in another country may be eligible to apply for UGSRF. Please contact the APS Education Office for further information.

5. Can students graduating in May apply?
   a. No, graduating seniors are not eligible to apply for these fellowships.

6. Are students in high school or middle school eligible to apply?
   a. No, the fellowship programs are open only to students currently enrolled in undergraduate studies.

7. Who is considered underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)?
   a. Individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (including low income, first
generation, and educational environment) that are considered underrepresented in STEM. Please refer to the NIH’s definitions of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in STEM under NOT-OD-15-053.

8. If an applicant does not qualify as underrepresented, is s/he still eligible to apply?
   a. Students who do not fall under the definition of individuals from underrepresented backgrounds should apply to the UGSRF program. Visit the Eligibility & Benefits page for more information.

9. Can the applicant apply for more than one undergraduate summer fellowship?
   a. Yes, if you are eligible, but there are exceptions. If you are applying for the UGSRF program, you must have less than 9 months of previous physiology research experience. If you are applying for the STRIDE program, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and qualify as a student from an underrepresented background (see #7 for definition).

10. How long is the fellowship program?
   a. The program period begins in May and ends the following spring.
   b. APS fellows conduct research in the lab of an APS member for 10 weeks in the summer.

11. Does an applicant need to secure a research host before applying?
   a. Yes. Prior to submitting an application the applicant must identify a research host who has agreed to host him/her in their lab over the upcoming summer. These programs require a joint student/host application. Please visit the Selecting Your Research Host page for more information.
   b. Note: Click here for more information about selecting a research host and to review the list of APS members interested in hosting a student in their lab over the summer. If you are having trouble finding a potential research host, please contact the APS Education Office.

12. If an applicant secures a research host, does that mean s/he will receive an award?
   a. No. Securing a research host is only part of the application process. These programs are competitive and not all applicants receive fellowships.

13. Must the applicant work in a lab at the same institution where s/he is enrolled?
   a. No, the student may choose any institution at which to conduct their research. Many of the Fellows conduct research at their home institution and others conduct research at another institution, such as an institution in their home
town. The disadvantage to going to another institution for the summer is that the student will not be able to continue any lab work once school begins.

14. Must the applicant work in the same lab as the previous research experience?
   a. No, students do not have to work in the same lab at the previous research experience. The student can choose whether to stay in the same lab or move to a different lab for this program.

15. Can the research host apply for APS membership so that they will be in good standing by the time the fellowship begins or must they be in good standing by the application date?
   a. The research host must be an APS member in good standing at the time of the application deadline. Click here to obtain APS membership application information.

16. Can more than one student from the same lab apply?
   a. As many students as are interested in the programs can apply from the same lab. However, each lab is only allowed one awardee per program. So if more than one applicant for the same program was rated highly by the Committee, only the top-rated applicant for that program would receive the award.

17. Do both the research host and the faculty writing a letter of recommendation need to be APS members in good standing?
   a. Only the research host needs to be an APS member. The other faculty member writing a letter does not need to be an APS member.

18. How will a research host/faculty member upload the necessary documents?
   a. In order to upload the research host document and letter of recommendation, the research host will need a specific link that is provided in an automated email generated by the APS Awards site. The email will appear to come from the student applicant’s email address with the subject line “APS Online Award Application File Request.”

   Sometimes this email gets blocked by institution server firewalls or gets sent to spam mailboxes. If the research host doesn’t see this email, s/he should check their spam mailbox first. If s/he still does not see this email, please contact the APS Education Office. Note: It is the responsibility of the student to ensure his/her research host received this email.
19. Can a research host/faculty member still upload a letter of recommendation after an applicant has submitted his/her application?
   a. Yes, as long as the letter of recommendation is submitted before the deadline. However, the application won’t be complete until all items, including the letter of recommendation and research host’s member number are uploaded. Once everything is uploaded, the system will send the student a confirmation email saying the application is complete. **Note:** It is the responsibility of the student to ensure his/her research host/faculty member received this email.

20. Can the applicant have another fellowship at the same time from another organization?
   a. No. While the APS fellowship can be supplemented by the research host, the student cannot accept another fellowship for the same period from another organization or institution. Fellows must also agree to conduct their research during the summer.

21. How many fellowships are awarded?
   a. The following number of fellowships is at the discretion of APS and subject to change:
      i. STRIDE: 24
      ii. UGSRF: 12

22. What happens if an applicant applies for more than one award and gets selected for more than one award?
   a. In the application process, students are asked to indicate their preference for the program. APS will try to honor that preference but may need to contact students who have been selected for more than one award and work with them to select only one award to receive. For the STRIDE program (heart, lung, blood research), the summer research project topic will be considered in the selection process.

23. Can an applicant participate in the same program multiple years?
   a. Yes, for the STRIDE program, students can participate for multiple years.
   b. No, for the UGSRF program, students can only participate in each program once due to the restriction on amount of previous research experience.

24. What are the selection criteria?
   a. **UGSRF:** Selection of participants is based on the quality of both student and research host application and specifically the following parameters: potential impact of the fellowship on the student’s career development, academic merit, student’s understanding of the research project, socioeconomic issues,
significant student involvement in research, research environment and funding, proposed interactions with research host and others in the lab, letters of recommendation. Special consideration is given to applicants whose socioeconomic background, access to educational opportunities, and other life experiences suggest that they would especially benefit from this type of program. Applications by students from institutions with few or limited research opportunities are especially encouraged.

b. **STRIDE**: Selection of participants is based on the quality of both student and research host application and specifically the following parameters: potential impact of the fellowship on the student’s career development, academic merit, student’s understanding of the research project, significant student involvement in research, research environment and funding, proposed interactions with research host and others in the lab, letters of recommendation.

25. **When will applicants be notified if they’ve been selected?**
   a. Applicants will be notified by April 1.