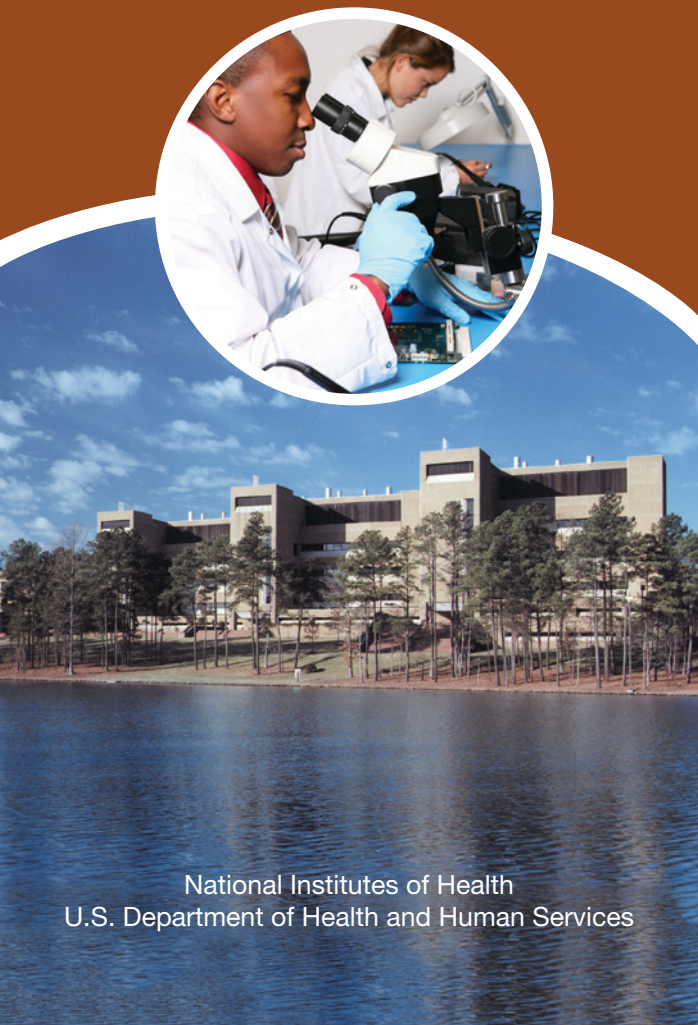
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Overview: Training and Career Opportunities



National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Developing a diverse biomedical workforce is an important part of the NIEHS mission to advance environmental health. To that end, NIEHS supports a wide range of high-quality internships, training, and career development opportunities.

These opportunities are offered on-site at NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina; at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland; and at grantee institutions across the U.S.

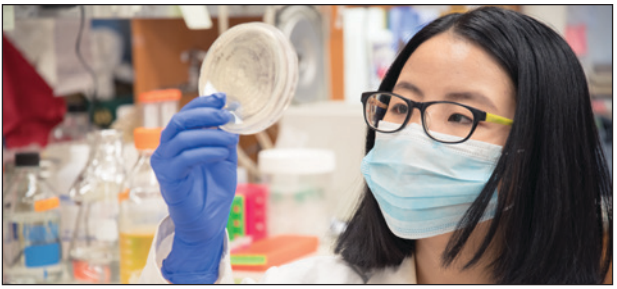
Training opportunities at NIEHS in North Carolina

NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research

- For students enrolled at least half time in a high school, college, graduate school, or professional school
- 8-12 week summer program working side by side with leading scientists
- Stipend provided
- Apply mid-November through March www.training.nih.gov/programs/sip

NIEHS Scholars Connect Program

- For college students enrolled as juniors or seniors at local N.C. institutions of higher education, including historically black colleges and universities, and community colleges
- Academic year program (3 semesters)
- Stipend provided
- Apply November to February www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research/scholars



NIH Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA)

- For recent college graduates planning to continue their graduate or professional education
- Offering up to a full-time stipend for one or two years
- Apply year-round www.training.nih.gov/programs/postbac_irta

NIH Graduate Partnerships Program (Predoctoral IRTA)

- For individuals, including international students, enrolled in Ph.D. graduate programs and engaged in dissertation research
- Stipend provided depending on research experience
- Apply by the first working day in December for entry the next fall www.training.nih.gov/programs/gpp

NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (IRTA)/ Visiting Fellowship Program

- For early-career scientists who have completed their doctoral programs, including international visiting fellows with valid visas
- Provides up to five years of stipend-supported training, career development, and mentoring
- Apply year-round www.training.nih.gov/programs/postdoc_irp

IRTA Diversity Program

- For fellows from underrepresented populations at the postdoc level
- Contact Trevor Archer, Ph.D., at archer1@niehs.nih.gov for more information

Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program

- The National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of NIH, offers three-year grants for postdoc fellowships in specialized fields across NIH, including NIEHS
- Apply by the first working day of October for entry the next fall www.nigms.nih.gov/training/pages/PRAT.aspx

NIEHS Medical Student Research Fellowships

- For full-time medical students in good standing who are pursuing an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. to complete their third year of medical school with training in NIEHS clinical and laboratory groups
- Apply by the final working day of January of the year entering the program www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research/med-students

International Career Transition Awards

- NIH has cooperative agreements with other nations that provide fellowships for their citizens in NIH labs, including NIEHS
- Eligibility criteria, number of application cycles per year, application deadlines, and other logistical details depend on home country/region
- More information is available at www.training.nih.gov/international_career_transition_awards

Additional Non-Lab Opportunities

- Most fellowships are laboratory-based, but there are opportunities for other scientific training at NIEHS and NTP
- Learn more at www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research/postdoc-training

Training opportunities at institutions across the country

NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

- NIEHS administers NRSA awards that support the training of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical researchers in environmental health
- Awards include individual predoc and postdoc fellowships, and institutional research training grants
- Stipends and period of support vary depending on education and experience

Institutional NRSA Research Training Grant Program

- Universities and institutions of higher education provide research training in the environmental health sciences for selected predoc and postdoc participants
- Some select programs offer short-term research training experiences for medical students
- Learn more at www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/training/irt

Individual NRSA Fellowships

- Eligible individuals include predoc students working towards a research doctorate or combined dual degrees, such as M.D./Ph.D.; postdoc researchers; and independent scientists, such as associate professors and full professors, who wish to make major research career changes or broaden their scientific background and research capabilities
- Provides yearly stipend, an allowance for tuition and fees, and some funds to defray other expenses and pay for travel to scientific meetings
- Learn more at www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/training/fellowships

NIEHS/NIH Institutional Summer Research Experience Program

- For talented high school students, college undergraduates, and science teachers at universities across the country
- Provides research and educational opportunities in the environmental health sciences during the summer
- Contact Michael Humble, Ph.D., at humble@niehs.nih.gov for a list of participating universities

NIEHS/NIH Career Development Awards

- For current scientists with academic appointments
- Provides intense career development experience in environmental health sciences
- Some of the awards are mentored, while others are for scientists who have already achieved independent research support
- These awards include the NIH Pathway to Independence Award, Transition to Independent Environmental Health Research (TIEHR) Career Development Award, and other specialized awards, such as awards for clinicians wanting to pursue research careers
- Learn more at www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research/trainingfrom/career

Most of the programs at NIEHS require application directly to NIH, but information is also available online at www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research

Opportunities by education level

High School Students

- NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research at NIEHS
- NIEHS/NIH Institutional Summer Research Experience Program at grantee institutions across the U.S.

College Students

- NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research at NIEHS
- NIEHS Scholars Connect Program
- NIEHS/NIH Summer Research Experience Program and undergraduate training programs at grantee institutions across the U.S.

College Graduates

- NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research at NIEHS
- NIH Postbaccalaureate IRTA at NIEHS

Predoctoral Students

- NIH Graduate Partnerships Program at NIEHS
- NIEHS Medical Student Research Fellowships
- NRSA predoctoral training programs at grantee institutions across the U.S. and individual NRSA predoctoral fellowships

Earned Doctorates (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., D.Sc., or equivalent terminal degree)

- NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (IRTA)/ Visiting Fellowship Program at NIEHS and NTP
- Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program
- International Career Transition Awards
- NRSA training programs at grantee institutions across the U.S. and individual NRSA postdoc fellowships

Career Development for Scientists

- Individual training awards at grantee institutions across the U.S. and individual NRSA fellowships

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About NIEHS

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is one of 27 research institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to in-house and grantee research programs, NIEHS is home to the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program that coordinates toxicology research and testing across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The institute also publishes a scientific journal, Environmental Health Perspectives.

The mission of NIEHS is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.

www.niehs.nih.gov

Learn more about our in-house research at www.niehs.nih.gov/research/atniehs/labs