Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program

The MHIRT Program

The Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) Program at the National Institutes of Health was established to: (1) increase the representation of socially or economically disadvantaged groups who have been historically underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral careers; and (2) support the research training of students who will most likely contribute to the elimination of health disparities that exist among disadvantaged populations in the U.S. This internship overseas gives you monthly stipend and covers all your travel expenses.

Eligibility Requirements

Must be from a group underrepresented in the sciences as defined by the NIH*.

Must be full-time enrolled in bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral program or medical/dental schools.

Undergraduates apply as sophomores or juniors so that they have completed at least two years of coursework in a major related to biomedical or behavioral science before the international experience.

Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident.

Must be pursuing degrees in the biomedical or behavioral sciences.

Must be willing to commit 12 weeks in the summer 2016 for international travel.

Must attend orientation and pre-departure seminars during Winter Semester.

Application Checklist

☐ Completed application form

☐ A copy full transcripts (If outside of UM, must be sealed).

☐ 1 professional letters of recommendation (Faculty/Teaching Assist/Res Mentor/Advisor)

☐ 1 personal letter of recommendation

☐ Graduate/Medical Students- Please also include 4 pages research concept proposal to be conducted at an international site (see application).

*Students for MHIRT program must be individuals from a group underrepresented in biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences. This includes members of racial and ethnic groups that have been identified by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in biomedical research (including Blacks and African Americans, Hispanic Americans or Latinos, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders); rural; and low socio-economic groups. Low-income individuals are defined as individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. These thresholds are based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs. The Secretary periodically publishes these income levels at http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml. For individuals from low income backgrounds, the grantee must be able to demonstrate that such candidates (a) have qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance; or (b) have received any of the following student loans: Health Professional Student Loans (HPSL), Loans for Disadvantaged Student Program; or have received scholarships from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need. Individuals from rural backgrounds are defined as those who come from a family residing in an area designated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as non-metropolitan (http://www.census.gov/population/www/metroareas/metroarea.html). The home address of prospective trainees can be entered into the Rural Assistance Center’s ‘Am I Rural’ website (http://ims2.missouri.edu/rac/amirural/) to obtain a Core Based Statistical Areas designation of Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Rural. Prospective trainees from areas with Micropolitan or Rural designations meet MHIRT eligibility requirements.
MHIRT Application

☐ Undergrad applicant  CHECK ONE  ☐ Medical/Grad applicant

**Applicant Information**

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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name (First, Middle, Last):</td>
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<td>Concentration, Degree</td>
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<td>E-mail Address:</td>
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<td>Alternate Email:</td>
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<td>Campus Address:</td>
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<td>Telephone number(s):</td>
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<td>Student ID Number:</td>
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<td>Permanent Address:</td>
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**Current Year in Program:**

☐ Sophomore  ☐ Junior  ☐ Senior  ☐ Graduate (year)  ☐ Medical

**Underrepresented community eligibility:**

You must qualify for and choose at least one. See page 1 for definitions and criteria.

☐ Ethnicity  ☐ Low Income  ☐ Rural

**Background Information**

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<tr>
<th>Race/Ethic Identification</th>
<th>Gender:</th>
<th>Country of Birth:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ African American</td>
<td>☐ Male</td>
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<td>☐ Native American</td>
<td>☐ Female</td>
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<td>☐ Hispanic / Latino</td>
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<td>☐ Native Hawaiian</td>
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<td>☐ Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>☐ Other (please specify)</td>
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**U.S. Citizen**  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

**Foreign Languages:** (indicate proficiency)

(If no, a copy of your Resident Alien card will be requested if selected)

**Are you currently receiving need-based financial support through the financial aid office?**

☐ Yes  ☐ No
### Colleges and Universities Attended

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
<th>Major</th>
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### Previous Work Experience

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates of Employment</th>
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### Recommendations requested

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<tr>
<th>Name and title</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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### Project Preferences: Rank order top 3; 1 = most preferred (Chile projects require conversational Spanish)

1. 
2. 
3. 

Would you consider any project/site?

### Note any formal research program you have been a part of

- [ ] UROP  - [ ] SROP  - [ ] SBP  - [ ] MSSRP  - [ ] MARC  - Other (describe)

### How did you hear about this program?
1. What is your interest in the elimination of health disparities?

2. What is your interest in children’s health and development?

3. What do you hope to achieve through participation in the MHIRT program? Try to be as comprehensive in your answer as possible. Use additional space if necessary for this or any other response.
4. What do you expect to get out of this training experience that you could not get in a U.S. research project?

5. What areas of biomedical or behavioral science/research are you interested in? What are your future goals?

6. How do you think that your experience in the MHIRT program will affect your interest in research, future career goals, or direction?
7. What personal characteristics do you have that will contribute to a successful experience? What personal characteristics do you have that you think will be challenged in this experience?

8. Describe any foreign travel experience you have had.

9. Evaluate your group skills.
10. Do you think this international experience will influence your view of race and ethnicity in your life? Explain.

11. What kind of experience (if any) do you have in lab or field research, statistical research, computers, or other related areas? Describe the role you played in each.

12. What do you think would be the most helpful things to know about your site and the program?
Please rate the degree to which you have experience in each of the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Minimal</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Extensive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Designing experiments to test a hypothesis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Stating a research hypothesis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Collecting research data</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Analyzing research data</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Interpreting research data</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Presenting research data</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Reading literature critically</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Behaving responsibly with regard to scientific codes of conduct (human subjects)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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ATTENTION Medical and Graduate Students Applying for the MHIRT Program

You must also submit a research proposal of about 5 pages.
Consider the following suggestions and contact the University of Michigan training faculty who is the lead investigator on the specific project(s) you are interested in if necessary.
Think concept rather than methods.
Think of a research topic that is related to the projects at your top ranked research site and develop a proposal around the topic. You need to be familiar with some of the literature in order develop the proposal. It may be difficult to find relevant literature regarding the topic in the foreign site, but make a stab at it. You should have no difficulty finding related U.S. literature.
Discuss the topic taking the following questions into some consideration.
What makes a good research topic?
What is known about the research topic and what is important about what is known/not known?
How does it relate to the specific project?
What makes it interesting to you?
How does it relate to you personally?
How does it relate to your future in research?
Cite the literature.
Other:
How do you see yourself fitting the research topic into the project at the foreign site that you are interested in?? Why are you interested in this specific project? Why are you good for the project? What is your vision for yourself and how does this experience fit with your vision?

Please be sure to include:

- Completed application form
- A copy full transcripts (If outside of UM, must be sealed).
- 2 Letters of recommendation
- Graduate/Medical Students- Research proposal

Please see cover page for details

Do you have passport? 
Yes 
No   If yes, please enter expiration date ____________

Applicant Agreement

☐ I understand that this application for the University of Michigan MHIRT, along with supporting documents that I have provided will be reviewed by the selection committee, mentors and Program Director. I certify that I personally completed this application and all the information provided is accurate. I understand that if I intentionally provided false information my application or enrollment in the program will be terminated.

Initials: _______   Date: _______
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**Student Support**

Stipend support during international summer research experience
- Undergraduates- $3,000 for 12 weeks
- Graduate Students- $3,600 for 12 weeks

Round trip airfare to international site
Housing allowance at international site
HTH Health Insurance
Vaccinations prior to travel
Visa fees

**International Sites**

Selected students will be matched at a site based on their research interests, experience and mentor availability. New sites may be added based on mentor availability and research.

**Chile**
University of Chile (Instituto de Nutrición y Tecnología de los Alimentos)
(Language proficiency in Spanish required)

**Ghana**
University of Ghana, Accra
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi
Princess Memorial Children’s Hospital, Accra

**Mongolia**
School of Public Health, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences

**Nicaragua**
Sustainable Science Institute, Managua, Nicaragua

**Contact Information**
Temuulen Johnson, Program Manager
MHIRT Program
Center for Human Growth & Development
University of Michigan
300 North Ingalls Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5406
(tel) 734-764-2443 (fax) 734-936-9288
Website: http://chgd.umich.edu/research/mhirt/

All application materials are due by November 6, 2015