



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of

**Biomedical Sciences
and Professional Studies**

College of Medicine

Dean's Fellowship for Excellence in Collaborative or Themed Research Request for Applications

Objective

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies seeks applications from PhD-track students to support innovative research projects to further develop their research experience. Research projects must be either **collaborative** in nature to foster the development of projects across laboratories at the University or **themed** with emphasis on competitive and cutting edge scientific discovery.

Successful applicants will receive financial support for one year of stipend coverage (\$27,000) and health insurance if they choose to use Drexel medical benefits. In addition to the stipend and health insurance, recipients are also awarded \$3000 to cover the cost of supplies and/or travel. Recipients are also eligible to compete for travel award scholarships. Projects are eligible for one-time renewal. Preference will be given to proposals that have significant potential to lead to new extramurally funded research projects at the University.

Eligibility

All graduate students matriculated into a degreed program, e.g. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or combined MD/PhD, are eligible to apply. Applicants must provide documentation that the work to be conducted pertains to the student's ongoing thesis research activities.

- ☐ PhD and MD/PhD student applicants are eligible to apply for funding that will begin in their third or fourth year of PhD study.
- ☐ At the time of award, the student must have completed all required course work and passed preliminary and qualifying exams.

Guidelines

Proposals must be emailed to: Office of the Dean, Fellowship Programs, graduate.school@drexelmed.edu. Each proposal and supporting information must be included in a single file in PDF format and received by February 15.

- (1) Cover letter including: student's name, program, and year in program
- (2) Description of project: limited to three single-spaced pages (11 pt font minimum, 1 inch margins) including specific aims, background and research strategy. The three pages must also include figures and supporting materials.
- (3) A reference list (not included in the three-page limit).
- (4) NIH biosketches (Form PHS398) for student, advisor and co-mentor(s).
- (5) Letter of support from student advisor and – for collaborative proposals – from co-mentor(s). These letter(s) of support must describe the student's enthusiasm and aptitude for research and how the project will foster the development of novel technical or conceptual advances in a particular field.

(6) One additional letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with the student's academic trajectory but not directly involved in the student's thesis committee.

(7) IACUC and/or IRB approval is required before funds are released to initiate the project, but approval is not required at the time of submission of the proposal. Existing, approved protocols for the advisor or co-mentor that include the entire proposed project will be accepted.

(8) A statement (1/2 page maximum) highlighting how the proposed project will contribute to the development of pilot data for new grant applications and – if applicable – why joint mentorship is critical for a successful outcome of the project.

The Awards and Fellowships Committee of the Graduate School will review all applications and make recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School. Selection of awardees will be made within 60 days of the application deadline. Because of the high number of applications, it will not be possible to provide written feedback to fellowship applicants.

Past recipients can apply for a second year to continue the award. Applications for continuation require a separate progress report describing accomplishments in the initial year of the fellowship. This report cannot exceed three pages and will be considered by the review committee in its evaluation for funding. The report must also include a brief statement justifying the request for an additional year of funding. Past recipients will not be permitted to apply for funding for a new project. Preference will be given to students who have not already received a fellowship award. Students whose applications were not selected may submit new applications in future award cycles.

Funds will be awarded based on:

- ☐ the scientific merit of the proposal
- ☐ the scientific advantage provided by joint mentorship and technical support from two or more active laboratories.
- ☐ the potential of the research project to garner future funding from external sources.
- ☐ the best plans presented for scientific development and mentoring of the applicant, without regard to the specific area of research.

Recognition of receipt of the **Dean's Fellowship for Excellence in Collaborative or Themed Research Training** should be included in acknowledgements of any published work as well as poster and platform presentations.