2015-16 Trainee Research Grant Program // Description

OVERVIEW

The Center seeks to support the research activities of trainees in member labs. As part of their training experience, trainees develop projects of their own devising, but may face a number of challenges in implementing them. For example, mentor labs may not have specific funding that can support trainee-initiated projects, and grant cycles for obtaining such funding may extend beyond a feasible time horizon for the trainee. We seek to address this problem and to develop the growing independence of trainees by providing grants to support research initiated by trainees.

Research support for trainees is open to both graduate students and postdocs. We interpret eligible research areas broadly; projects may include such components as novel computational, experimental, statistical, or theoretical approaches, or collection, analysis, or interpretation of data. Topic areas span the research interests of Center faculty and encompass the research activities of member labs.

ELIGIBILITY

Any graduate student or postdoc in a PhD program or advanced degree equivalent, completing their degree in a Center member lab, is eligible to apply. Applicants must be trainees, and research scientists or equivalent staff positions are not eligible. Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously held a trainee research grant. Applicants who are recipients of Center fellowships are eligible. At the time of application, graduate students must already be committed to completing their degree in the member lab, and postdocs must already be resident at Stanford in the member lab. Note that the program seeks to support growing independence of trainees by advancing projects that have been largely devised and driven by the trainee, rather than to augment lab funding for large efforts.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applications must include the following components:

1) Application cover sheet
2) Curriculum vitae
3) Letter of recommendation from primary advisor
4) Project description (2 pages. Background, specific aims, and methods and research design. References are not included in the 2-page limit)
5) Detailed budget and justification

The letter of recommendation from the primary advisor is expected to comment on the suitability of the research to his or her lab, and to express intellectual support for completing the work in the lab.
The maximum project budget that will be supported by the Center is $15,000. If the project budget exceeds $15,000, the letter from the primary mentor must include a commitment to financially support the balance of the project. The budget is expected to support expenses related to research, and the applicant’s stipend is not eligible for support. The program prioritizes initiation and development of new projects, and budgets are expected to emphasize costs at these early stages in comparison to costs at a project’s late stage (e.g. excessive publication costs or conference travel).

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

The program application deadline will be announced annually. For the current application period, all application materials must be received by **May 12, 2015 at 5:00pm Pacific Time**. Applicants should prepare all application materials except for the nomination letter and supporting recommendation letters. Students are responsible for arranging that recommendation letters be sent separately. All materials should be submitted via email to Cody Montana Sam **(codysam@stanford.edu)**. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that nomination and recommendation letters are received by the deadline.

**EVALUATION PROCESS**

Applications are evaluated by a committee designated by the CEHG Executive Committee. Applications are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1) Excellence of the candidate  
2) Excellence of the proposed research and suitability of the research to Center goals  
3) Ability of the lab to support the research  
4) Evidence of student independence in the research proposal

As Center fellows contribute to the development of a growing community within the Center, efforts will be made to represent a diversity of research areas within the collection of awarded fellowships.

Projects that involve an integration with other techniques or systems in addition to computational, evolutionary, or human genomics are encouraged though not required; for such projects, applications are expected to devote significant attention to the contribution of computational, evolutionary, or human genomics, and to the strategies employed for the genomic component of the work.
**AWARD DESCRIPTION**

It is expected that funds will be used within 2 years from the grant start date. Awardees will be expected to participate in Center events, and can expect to be asked to present their work in the Center at various stages of the research. Awardees can be expected to be called upon by Center faculty to participate in various ways throughout the fellowship period and are encouraged to propose new Center activities.

At the end of the award period, awardees are expected to complete a report detailing the activities undertaken during the fellowship. Awardees are expected to acknowledge the research grant on publications and talks produced with its support.

The number of awards per application cycle is expected to be 5-10.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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