



The Microbiology and Immunology Departments Scholars (MIDS) Program



The Graduate Program in Microbiology and Immunology (PMI) is excited to offer the undergraduate Microbiology and Immunology Departments Scholars (MIDS) Program!

Overview:

The purpose of the MIDS Program is to provide research experience, career development and mentoring to undergraduate students from a broad range of backgrounds who have not previously considered a career in or had opportunities for hands-on research. The MIDS Program includes opportunities in basic and translational research with a focus in the areas of Microbiology and Immunology and aims to prepare scholars for graduate-level education and careers in the biomedical sciences.

The MIDS Program provides research experience and scientific training to undergraduate Scholars enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University or Chatham University. For two years (4 semesters), the Scholars engage in basic and/or translational research projects under the guidance of experienced researchers and principal investigators in the fields of microbiology and/or immunology within the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In addition to experiencing research environments, Scholars develop scientific technical and communication skills, build relationships with mentors, attend career development seminars, and have opportunities to present their independent research at both in-house and national scientific conferences. These activities are designed to help Scholars become highly competitive applicants for PhD, MD or MD/PhD programs.

Program Structure:

Upon acceptance into the Program, the MIDS Committee pairs each Scholar with a faculty mentor based on the Scholar's research interests indicated in the application. Scholars are expected to remain in the same lab for the entirety of the program. *Scholars are **required** to be in the lab a minimum of 10 hours per week for 10 weeks during the Fall and Spring semesters.* Approximately 85% of their effort will be dedicated to their independent research project. The remaining 15% will be spent on the professional and academic development of the Scholar, including but not limited to: scientific writing (abstracts, manuscripts, etc.), poster and oral presentations, attending University of Pittsburgh professional and career development sessions, networking, and meeting with academic mentors or advisors. **Scholars progress in the lab and participation in lab and program activities are reviewed at the end of each semester and satisfactory performance is required for continuation in the program.**

Program Benefits:

Students who have successfully completed at least one semester of research in the MIDS Program and remain in good standing (see expectations below) are eligible to apply for MIDS funding. Available funding opportunities include:

- **Summer Research Stipend:** Supports continued research in the student's MIDS laboratory during the summer.

- **Semester Research Stipend:** Provides support while conducting research during an academic semester.
- **Travel Award:** Helps cover the costs of attending a scientific conference to present research conducted in the MIDS Program.

Expectations of the Scholar:

- Commit 10-15hrs per week (3-4 hour blocks) in the laboratory for 10 weeks each semester.
- Maintain regular communication with the lab mentors (at least monthly) and student mentors (at least twice per semester).
- Maintain regular communication with the Program Director (at least once per semester)
- Attendance is required at MIDS Seminars (2 per semester) and the annual MIDS Symposium (April) for career and professional development.
- Apply/attend 1 Pitt-sponsored scientific conference and/or 1 national scientific conference each year
- Mandatory meeting with the Director at the end of the first semester to discuss progress and continued participation in the program.
- Oral presentation after 4 semesters at the annual MIDS Symposium (April).

Expectations of the Faculty Mentor:

- Provide mentorship and research experience to the Scholar for a minimum of 2 years.
- Have sufficient funding to support the Scholar's second year in the MIDS Program (~\$3,500).
- Ensure your Scholar presents research at 1 Pitt-sponsored and/or 1 national scientific conference per year.
- Submit written evaluation of your scholar to the MIDS Director at the end of each semester.
- Report promptly to the MIDS Director any Scholar non-compliance with the requirements of the MIDS Program.
- Meet at least monthly with Scholar to discuss scientific progress on the project and goals.

Expectations of the Student Mentor:

- Participate in applicant interviews and selection
- Meet with assigned MID Scholar in person twice per semester
- Attend MIDS seminars and lead or co-lead a session
- Provide a written report on the scholar's progress at the end of each semester

Scholar Signature

Date

Updated August 2026

Faculty Mentor Signature

Date

Student Mentor Signature

Date

Additional questions or concerns? Contact our Program Director, Dr. Kevin McCarthy
(KRM@pitt.edu)