**Microbiology and Immunology Department Scholars Program Application**

The Microbiology and Immunology Department Scholars (MIDS) Program is an undergraduate research initiative established by the Graduate Program of Microbiology and Immunology (PMI) at the University of Pittsburgh. The aim of the MIDS Program is to provide research experience, career development and mentoring to undergraduate students who have not previously considered a career in or had opportunities for hands-on researchin preparation for graduate-level education and careers in the biomedical sciences (MD, PhD, MD/PhD).

Eligible students must have a strong interest in microbiology or immunology. In addition, students must:

* Commit a minimum of 10-15 hrs/week (**3-4hr blocks at a time**) to research for 10 weeks per semester.
* Be ≥ 18 years of age and currently enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, or Chatham University.
* Have completed at least 2 semesters of undergraduate coursework.
* Have excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

The program lasts 2 school years (4 semesters) and to be eligible candidates must have 2+ years remaining of undergraduate coursework.

Applications accepted for Fall and Spring semesters. Please compile the following application materials and **email the completed application to cak94@pitt.edu with the title “MIDS Program Application”.**

1. Personal Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| University: |  |
| Student ID#: |  |
| Major: |  |
| Anticipated Graduation Date: |  |
| How did you hear about us? |   |
| Research Interests:***Select up to 3*** | * Molecular Virology
* Immunology of Barrier Surfaces
* Microbial Pathogenesis
* Tumor Immunology
* Bioengineering
* Antibiotic Resistance
* Systems Immunology
* Genetics
* Microbial Evolution
 | * Transplantation Immunology
* Cancer Virology
* Immunology of Infectious Disease
* Autoimmunity
* Basic Immunologic Mechanisms
 |

1. Course schedule and availability for research:
Please mark the weekly calendar below with your class schedule (make boxes grey) and the times you are available for research (make boxes blue).
**(must be at least 10 hrs per week with 3-4 hr blocks of time available)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **8-9 am** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9-10 am** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10-11 am** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11am-12pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **12-1pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1-2pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2-3pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3-4pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4-5pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5-6pm** |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Please provide the following short personal statements:
	1. 500-words or less on your interest in biomedical research and your career goals
	2. 300-words on why participation in this program will help your career goals.
	3. 300-words on why you only recently considered a career in research or how limitations in your background have restricted your ability to pursue research opportunities.

In addition, please provide the following documents:

1. Unofficial transcript
2. 1 letter of reference (Referee should email letter directly to cak94@pitt.edu
3. Curriculum vitae/resume that includes all extracurricular activities, employment positions, and additional commitments, including clubs.

**Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria:**

1. A committee comprised of PMI faculty and graduate students will review the applications based on the following criteria:
2. Fitness: Defined by the applicant’s fitness for the primary goals of the program – to provide research experience, professional development and mentorship opportunities to undergraduates who have not previously considered careers in research or had opportunities for hands on research experience in biomedical sciences.
3. Motivation: Defined by the applicant’s interest in biomedical research, career goals, and demonstration of how the program will advance their learning and opportunities.
4. Feasibility: Defined by the applicant’s additional commitments, jobs, coursework, and extracurricular activities. Applicants are expected to be in lab for a minimum of 10 hrs per week for 10 weeks per semester for 4 total semesters over 2 yrs. Typically hours are Monday-Friday between 8am-6pm when other members of the lab are present and available to work with scholars.
5. Following review, the top scoring applications will be invited for a 30 min in-person interview with two PMI student mentors on the committee.
6. Accepted candidates to the program will be matched with PMI faculty with availability based on their stated research interests prior to the start of the 10 week semester lab period.

For more information on the MIDS Program visit: <http://www.pmi.pitt.edu/research/mid-scholars-program>or Contact our Director, Dr. Amanda Poholek (poholeka@pitt.edu)

 Contact our Program Coordinator, Candice Kuo (cak94@pitt.edu)

**Follow us on social media!**

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**X:** **@MIDSProgramPitt**

**Instagram: midsprogrampitt**