

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About the Summer Institute for Applied Research in Child and Adolescent Development

Eligibility

Q: I do not have my Ph.D. or M.D. yet, but I will in time for the Summer Institute. Am I eligible to apply?

A: The Summer Institute is for applicants who have completed their doctoral degree and have at least one year of post-doctoral research experience, but not more than five. However, applicants who do not meet these requirements, but who have compelling evidence of research experience are encouraged to apply.

Q: I have more than five years experience as an investigator; however, I am interested in attending the Summer Institute. Am I eligible to apply?

A: The Summer Institute targets new investigators with less than five years of post-doctoral research experience. However, applicants who have more than five years of research experience who also have compelling reasons for participating are encouraged to apply.

Q: I do not have a Ph.D. or M.D.; however, I think I can greatly benefit from the institute. Am I eligible to apply?

A: The Summer Institute is focused on training early career researchers, giving preference to individuals who hold doctoral degrees and have at least one year, but not more than five years of post-doctoral research experience.

Citizenship

Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or have permanent residence status to be eligible for the Summer Institute?

A: Yes, applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. If you meet these criteria, you are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen, but I am conducting research abroad. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Yes. If you are a U.S. citizen, you are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Q: I have applied for U.S. citizenship or permanent residence and my status is pending. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Institute organizers will give consideration to applicants in cases of pending resident or citizenship status. All applicants with pending status who meet the stated eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply. Applicants need to provide evidence of their special circumstance and documentation that citizenship or permanent residence will be acquired by the time of the Summer Institute.

Experience

Q: What is meant by five years of subsequent research as a Ph.D.? I have completed my post-doctoral research training within five years, but received my Ph.D. more than five years ago. Am I eligible?

A: The Summer Institute targets early career applicants who have earned their doctoral degree and who have at least one year of post-doctoral research experience, but not more than more than five years of post-doctoral experience. However, applicants who have more than five years of post-doctoral research experience and who have compelling reasons to participate are encouraged to apply.

Q: What is meant by five years of subsequent research experience as an M.D.? Is this five years subsequent to residency? I completed my residency within five years, but received my M.D. more than five years ago. Am I eligible?

A: The Summer Institute targets applicants that have received their doctoral degree and have no more than five years of post-doctoral research training. However, applicants who earned their M.D. degrees and have more than five years of post-doctoral training will be considered based on their interest and potential for an independent career in applied child and adolescent development research.

Research

Q: I am interested in applying for the Summer Institute, but I am unsure if my research agenda qualifies. Should I apply?

A: All applicants who fit the stated criteria are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be considered based on their interest and potential for an independent career in applied child and adolescent development research.

Application Submission

Q: In regard to the two letters of recommendation, the Web site says all materials should be submitted electronically. Should I have my recommenders electronically submit the letters separately from my application, or should I submit them with my application packet?

A: Letters of recommendation can be submitted separately or with your application. Letters of recommendation submitted separately should include the following in the e-mail subject line: Summer Institute, Letter of Recommendation, [applicant's name].

Program Expectations

Q: If I am accepted to participate in the Institute, will I have to stay for the entire week?

A: Yes, all applicants are required to be in full attendance for the entire week.

Q: I know that accepted participants are responsible for paying their own travel, but what if I cannot afford travel?

A: A limited number of travel awards are available for individuals accepted to participate in the Institute. If you are unable to pay for travel expenses, upon acceptance to the Institute, send a letter indicating your special circumstances and why you need travel support to summerinst@mail.nih.gov. The Summer Institute staff will notify you if your request for travel support has been granted.