

Release date: March 27, 2025

Call for applications: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease Predoctoral Training Program

Scope and Purpose

- NIH-funded fellowship support (Stipend and fringe benefits for one year)
- Travel funds for one conference
- Support interdisciplinary and collaborative research
- Professional skill development in leadership, proposal-writing, communication and entrepreneurship, and teaching

The goal of this NIH-funded program is to develop outstanding new scientists who work in collaborative multi-disciplinary teams to research disease mechanisms using quantitative approaches. Successful applicants will be highly qualified, motivated students with a strong interest in studying underlying molecular causes of human disease. The program will provide a framework for students to assemble a broad knowledge base, actively seek research collaborations, produce an outstanding record of original published research, and develop presentation, proposal writing, and leadership skills. Successful completion of the program will position trainees for future excellence as independent researchers focused on mechanisms of disease progression.

Eligibility

- Student currently enrolled in a PhD program at UNL within their 1st or 2nd year of study in 2025 within a participating laboratory (for a list of preceptors visit <https://mmod.unl.edu/>) or in a laboratory with NIH-funded projects.
- Citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident (in accordance with NIH guidelines)

Criteria for selection

- Excellent academic record
- Research accomplishments and evidence of first year progress
- Collaborative (co-mentored) proposal in an area of molecular disease research
- Career development and mentoring plan
- Support of primary mentor and co-mentor

Due date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Application materials

Submit as a single pdf document in the following order to MMoDprogram@unl.edu by midnight, May 6, 2025.

- 1. Statement of applicant's career goals** (i.e., what do you want to do?). Include how participation in the MMoD training program would help your career goals. (one page limit).
- 2. Research Proposal** (11 pt Arial, 0.5 inch margins, three pages, single-spaced, and not including references). Must include the following sections: Significance, Relevance to Molecular Mechanisms of Disease, Hypothesis, Approach, and Impact.
- 3. Applicant biographical sketch** including list of undergraduate and graduate courses with scholastic performance (also attach an appendix of undergraduate and graduate school transcripts), future graduate courses to be taken, abstracts and presentations, and manuscripts published or accepted (NIH-style, 5-page limit, see example). Students must include their NIH eRA commons username in their biosketch. To set up an eRA commons username and profile, please contact the UNL Office of Sponsored Programs for assistance.

4. Mentoring plan. Describe your mentoring/training plan, developed in partnership with the primary and co-advisor, that includes specific components that are important for achieving your research project and career goals (two-page limit). Sections must include:

- Timeline for completing PhD Degree.
- Plan for acquiring research skills needed to complete the research project.
- Presentation opportunities at regional, national, and international conferences.
- Expectations for writing and submitting manuscripts.
- Plan for submitting fellowship grant applications.
- Expectations for meetings between mentee and mentors.
- Resources to be provided by the primary advisor and co-advisor.
- Professional growth opportunities and career skill development.
- Describe how this MMod Fellowship would help you achieve your career goals.

5. Mentor letters. Two letters, one from each mentor.

- One letter from the primary mentor describing their role in the project and how the career goals of the student will be supported.
- One letter from the co-mentor describing their role in the project and how the career goals of the student will be supported.

6. Biographical sketches for the primary mentor and co-mentor (NIH-style, 5-page limit)

7. Appendix- Transcripts from Undergraduate Degree Program and UNL Graduate School Courses (unofficial records are acceptable).