

Temple University
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Maximizing Access to Research Careers
Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research
(MARC U * STAR) Application

TU MARC U*STAR 2017 PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM
Federally Funded pre-PhD training program

Students wishing to apply for this program must complete and submit this Application Form, along with all related materials to:

Temple University MARC Program
TU-MARC Program Administrator/Coordinator
Bio Life Building Room 333B
Attention: Dr. Liz Russell-McKenzie
Tel: 215-204-4747
E-mail: tumarc@temple.edu

A faculty panel will review applications and faculty and MARC scholars will interview shortlisted applicants. Students selected for the program will be notified shortly after the interviews are complete. On Wednesday, May 3rd we will have our MARC graduation during which we will welcome the new cohort (MARC 10s) and say farewell to our graduates (MARC 8s).

ORIENTATION WEEK WILL BEGIN AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY ON MONDAY MAY 29 (MEMORIAL DAY) AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE WEEK, ENDING ON FRIDAY JUNE 2. You will start working in the lab on Monday June 5 and end on Friday August 4.

We hope you will discuss this opportunity with your family and communicate any concerns or questions to us directly. You can email Dr. Elisabeth Russell-McKenzie, Program Administrator/Coordinator at tumarc@temple.edu, or Dr. Jacqueline Tanaka, Program Director at jtanaka@temple.edu

Applicants must be involved in areas related to biomedical science, have 2 years left until graduation, and be planning to attend graduate PhD programs in these areas. Students interested in combined professional and PhD programs e.g. MD/PhD will be considered but not students interested solely in health professions, i.e. MD, pharmacy, dentistry etc. or in vet school. These requirements are stipulated by the NIH.

Please note: **MARC-U*STAR IS YEAR-ROUND AND TRAINS STUDENTS FOR ENTRY INTO DOCTORAL (PHD) EDUCATION. IT IS NOT A SUMMER PROGRAM BUT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. MARC-U*STAR REQUIRES A COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE FOR TWO YEARS***. In addition, before you graduate you are expected to apply for at least five (5) doctoral programs.

* Occasionally, a student having only one year until graduation may be considered if they can demonstrate that they are passionate about biomedical research, and are committed to applying to graduate programs. They also need to have GPAs of 3.50 and above, and commit to doing the GRE by the end of the summer.

I. ELIGIBILITY: applicants should:

- **QUALIFY FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STATUS UNDER THE NIH GUIDELINES (any one or a combination of)**
 - * **Hispanic, African-American, native American, Pacific Islander**
 - * **first generation college graduate AND come from a disadvantaged background**
 - * **have a permanent disability**
- be entering their junior or senior year with 2 full years until graduation.
- have a science GPA of 3.2 or higher (PhD track) / 3.5 or higher (combined degree track).
- have all As and Bs in science/math courses in the semester prior to entry.
- have an interest in graduate research in biomedical science.
- be citizens or permanent residents of the US.

II. REQUIREMENTS:

- Majors in the following disciplines: biology, biochemistry, biophysics, biomedical engineering, chemistry, neuroscience, public health, computational biology or other majors leading to graduate programs in biomedical science or behavioral health.
- Two-year commitment to the program and intention to maintain required GPA
- A one-week orientation program is required prior to the summer research placement.
- Awardees will work with a faculty mentor at Temple University or nearby research institution and engage in full-time research for 40 hours each week for 9 -10 weeks during the summer of 2017
- Agree to work in the laboratory during the 2017–2018 academic year for approximately 15 hours each week
- Engage in full-time research in the summer of 2018 in a laboratory approved by the TU-MARC administration
- Continue to work in an approved lab during the 2018–2019 academic year for approximately 15 hours each week
- **Maintain academic standing and full-time student status (min 12c.h. each semester)**
- Attend weekly group and individual meetings, workshops and other MARC U STAR activities

III. SELECTION: Members of the MARC U STAR Selection Committees will assess each applicant, based on the following criteria:

- personal and academic goals
- potential for leadership in biomedical science
- interpersonal and communication skills
- letters of recommendation from faculty mentors
- individual plans for incorporating the scholarship experience into specific career goals

IV. AWARDS:

- students will receive ~60% in-state or ~50% out-of-state tuition each year
- each student will receive a stipend of ~ \$12,100 for the year contingent upon successful progress in the research project and upon recommendation of the mentor
- subsistence and reimbursable travel allowance as necessary for summer research in 2017 and 2018 and conference presentations

V. APPLICATION

1. A packet from the applicant containing:

- APPLICATION FORM (PGS 4-6)
- YOUR RESUME OR CV
- AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

2. PERSONAL STATEMENT: *(Include your name as a header on all the pages)*

Summarize on a separate, single-spaced typewritten page in 750 words or less your life and educational experiences that have led you to apply for this program.

- WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE MARC-U*STAR PROGRAM? WHY DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE OFFERED THIS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY? WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH? WHAT EVENT/WHO INSPIRED YOU TO PERFORM BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH?
- WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PLANS? WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER PLANS? HOW DO YOU THINK THIS PROGRAM WILL ENHANCE YOUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN YOUR CAREER GOALS?
- WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE YOU MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?
- ALSO, INCLUDE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT YOU FEEL THE SELECTION COMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN ASSESSING YOUR APPLICATION.

This essay provides an important component in our selection process.

3. FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation letters + evaluation form from two faculty members (not TA's or graduate students) OR if you are already working in a research lab at least one from that research mentor:

Letters of recommendation and completed evaluation form from two faculty members in your discipline.

*Download **Faculty Recommendation Forms** and email to faculty AFTER you have contacted them and they have agreed to supply recommendation.*

PLEASE NOTE: Names and email addresses of your recommenders should be included in your application form.

Recommendation letters from faculty should be emailed directly to Dr. Russell-McKenzie at tumarc@temple.edu or sent to the MARC Office (BioLife 333 B).

Some General Advice on Recommendation Letter and Forms:

1. Do not allow shyness or hesitation about an application prevent you from participating in these programs. If you are strongly motivated to pursue a career in research and are having trouble with recommendation forms or other parts of your application, come and see the program coordinator, Dr Liz (BL333) for advice. If a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences is your goal, our programs will benefit you greatly, both in the present by allowing you to obtain valuable research experience, and in the future with admission to special off-campus undergraduate summer research programs and doctoral (Ph.D.) programs.
2. The MARC application requires two faculty recommendations, to be completed on the MARC Recommendations form. We advise you to provide these to the people from whom you will obtain a recommendation, and make sure they have the correct email address.
3. Obtain recommendations preferably from TU science/public health/neuroscience faculty members. TAs **are not** recommended. ***If you have worked in or are working in a research laboratory (not a teaching lab), get one from your research mentor.***
4. The better you know someone, the better your recommendation is likely to be. If you have any doubts if a person will evaluate you well, ask them whether they “know you well enough to write a good recommendation for you.” People don’t like writing bad recommendations and this way, you give them an easy way to turn you down rather than write a bad or very scanty recommendation. Realize, however, that even a scanty recommendation is better than not turning one in at all or not applying.
5. **If a faculty member doesn’t know you very well but will work with you, you may assist them by helping them to get to know you better. Set up an appointment and provide them with a letter detailing your future goals and the program to which you are applying, your personal statement to the program, as well as a copy of your resume/CV.**
6. Ask your recommender as far in advance as possible. Good recommendations take some consideration and take a good bit of time to put together and your professors are very busy.
7. Follow up with your recommenders to make sure that the recommendations are actually sent.

Adapted from UTSA MARC website: <http://www.utsa.edu/mbrs/jsRISE/applying.htm>

Do you have Exceptional Financial Need (EFN) or family income as described at the link below

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html> ?

Yes

No

Will you be the first person in your immediate family (parents and siblings) to graduate from college?

Yes

No

Are you the recipient of any other scholarships or funding?

Yes

No

If YES, please provide details

Residency Status: (check one)

US citizen

US Permanent Resident

Non-Resident (not eligible for MARC U STAR)

(If you are Permanent Resident (i.e. green card holder) of the U.S., you must provide a copy of your green card.

Applicants with temporary and Student Visas are ineligible.)

Permanent Address:

University/Temporary Address: *(if different from Permanent Address)*

Applicant Full Name (First, Middle, Last):

Phone Numbers: Home:

Cell:

Email address: Temple:

(Please print) Other:

Temple College you are registered in: CLA CST C Engin CPH other _____

Expected Undergraduate Degree: BS BS with teaching BA

Expected Graduation Date: May 2018 Dec 2018 May 2019

Undergraduate Major/Minor(s):

Overall GPA:

Science/Math GPA:

Use this webpage to help you: <http://www.temple.edu/healthadvising/GPACalculator.htm>

Student organizations and activities in which you participate:

Names and departments of two faculty members who will write letters of recommendation for you:

Do you have any research experience? Yes No

If you checked "YES" for research experience, complete the following:

(a) In a few words, what was (is) the general field of research?

(b) Where was (is) this research conducted?

(c) What was (is) the name of your research supervisor/lab head?

Please check (v) one or more possible major fields of study that you might pursue in graduate school:

- Biochemistry
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biomathematics and Biostatistics
- Biophysics
- Cancer Biology
- Cell Biology
- Cell and Regulatory Biology
- Computational Biology
- Genes and Development
- Genetic Counseling
- Genetics
- Human and Molecular Immunology
- Integrative Biology
- Molecular Carcinogenesis
- Medical Physics
- Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular Pathology
- Neurosciences
- Biomaterials
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Radiation Biology
- Regulatory Biology
- Reproductive Biology
- Toxicology
- Virology and Gene therapy
- Environmental Sciences

CAREER PATH PLAN

1. What do you plan to do immediately following graduation from TU?

2. What is the career path that you eventually hope to pursue?

3. Why do you want to pursue this path?

4. How long do you expect this educational process to last?

5. What graduate/doctoral programs are you planning to apply for? Which is your favorite and why?

6. What will be difficult about pursuing your chosen career?

7. What do you believe that you will enjoy most about your chosen career?

This is to certify that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete.

(Signature)

(Date)

Questions and enquiries should be addressed to Dr. Elisabeth Russell-McKenzie at tumarc@temple.edu or call 215-204-4747