



Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Program

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) program is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health to promote biomedical graduate students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

The program provides an outstanding financial support package and a wide range of personal and career development workshops and retreats. It also gives students the opportunity to strengthen their foundational knowledge and skills through a paid summer bridge program, research rotations, and writing workshops.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for the IMSD program, students must first apply and be accepted into a participating graduate program. Students are eligible for funding if they are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and members of historically underrepresented groups in the biomedical sciences.

After acceptance into a participating program, a team of faculty leaders from the University of Maryland Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy will select students for the IMSD program, which will take five students per year.

PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS

IMSD students benefit from a close-knit support group of faculty mentors, staff, and peer students. There are currently 59 PhD students from the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy in the program.

School of Medicine Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS)

- Molecular Medicine
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

- Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
- Neuroscience

School of Pharmacy

- Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC)

HISTORY OF THE IMSD PROGRAM

The IMSD program enjoys a long-standing partnership with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) Meyerhoff Graduate Fellows Program, which began in 1996 and was continuously supported by a Minority Biomedical Research Support-IMSD grant until 2022. The IMSD program continues to engage in activities with the UMBC Meyerhoff Program, which is now supported by a Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (G-RISE) T32 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. Joint activities between G-RISE and IMSD include an annual research retreat and biannual meetings.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Bridge Program

Incoming IMSD students will participate in a Summer Bridge Program, which is a hybrid of offerings from the

individual graduate programs as well as programming that has been developed specifically for IMSD students. It includes:

- GPILS IMSD fellows participate in a program that prepares incoming students for their core GPILS coursework.
- PSC IMSD fellows conduct a summer research rotation in PSC faculty laboratories.
- All IMSD fellows participate in a week-long combination of courses in research conduct and reproducibility (RCR) and scientific writing.

Anti-racism Training

- The UMB Intercultural Center provides training for program faculty to support open dialogue and a clearer understanding of the challenges faced by the program's trainees.

HOW TO APPLY

Prospective candidates must complete the University of Maryland Graduate School's online application, as well as submit the following materials:

- Official transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- A statement of academic goals and research interests
- CV/Resume

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

For general questions about the IMSD program, please contact one of the program coordinators.

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