

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - BRIDGE 2025 Summer Fellowship Program

1. What is the BRIDGE Summer Fellowship Program?

The BRIDGE Summer Fellowship Program, hosted by the Division of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, offers a 10-week mentored summer research fellowship to college students (rising sophomores - seniors) and college graduates taking a gap year. The program focuses on mentoring in laboratory research, epidemiologic research, or clinical research within the field of infectious diseases. It aims to build bridges to careers in medicine, public health, and infectious disease research, particularly for individuals from backgrounds historically underrepresented in these fields.

2. What do I gain from this internship?

This internship offers hands-on experience, mentorship, and exposure to infectious disease research. You'll acquire essential skills and insights, exploring diverse projects from HIV/AIDS to global health. It also offers an opportunity to build a network of mentors with whom you can have longitudinal contact. Overall, the goal is for this program to provide a foundation for your future career in medicine, public health, or infectious disease research, to support you in a journey towards impactful contributions in healthcare.

3. What are the key components of the mentored fellowship?

The program includes experiential and didactic learning, division meetings, educational sessions (journal club, lectures, webinars), and a specific research project conducted under the supervision of a primary faculty mentors. Participants present their research at the program's conclusion to the division and establish relationships with their research mentor and with BRIDGE program mentors that are intended to be long-term, after the summer fellowship ends. Shadowing experiences in laboratories or research groups outside of the primary mentored experience may also be available.

4. Am I Eligible to Apply to This Program?

You are eligible to apply if you meet all the following criteria:

- You are a college student (rising sophomores - seniors) or a college graduate (from undergrad) currently taking a gap year(s).

- You are a member of a racial or ethnic group traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research, as defined by the National Institutes of Health. [Learn more here.](#)
- You are interested in pursuing a career in medicine, specifically with an interest in infectious diseases.

5. Does this program accept international students?

No, the program does not accept international students on F-1 visa, OPT, or CPT.

6. If I have a disability, am I still eligible?

Yes, the program encourages applications from individuals with disabilities. As long as you meet the eligibility criteria outlined in #1, you are eligible to apply.

7. If I am enrolled in a Master’s program, am I still eligible?

No, applicants currently enrolled in a Master’s program does not qualify for this program.

8. What are the dates of the BRIDGE 2025 Summer Fellowship Program?

The program runs for 10-weeks during the spring / summer from June 9, 2025 - August 15, 2025. Applicants are **required to complete the 10-week program in its entirety.**

9. What is the application process?

Students are selected based on a competitive application process. Applications are reviewed by the BRIDGE fellowship selection committee, and candidates are chosen based on their academic and research background, interest in infectious diseases, and potential contributions to the program.	
Now – January 10th	Submit your application here.
January 10th – Mid-February	BRIDGE reviews applications
Mid to Late-February	Applicants will be sent emails informing them whether or not they have been selected for an interview

March	Interviews are conducted and applicants will be asked to provide a resume along with letters of recommendation/references
Early to Mid-April	Applicants will receive communication of the final decision

10. How many are selected for the program?

Approximately 6-7 interns will be selected for the program.

11. Will housing be provided?

Yes, housing will be provided near BWH (likely at a local college campus in a private bedroom within a shared unit and access to a kitchen) for the duration of the BRIDGE program, for individuals who do not have a local residence.

12. Can I commute if I live in Boston or nearby?

Yes, commuting is feasible if you can arrive on time and communicate any delays. If you have a local residence and do not need housing through the BRIDGE program, we will provide you with an additional \$500 (in addition to the stipend below) for commuting.

13. How much is the stipend? Does it cover food expenses?

The stipend amount will be \$5,000, intended to cover food, travel to/from Boston, local transport, and incidental expenses. Unfortunately, expenses exceeding the \$5,000 stipend cannot be covered by the program.

14. What is the Day in the Life of an intern?

Intern experiences vary based on individual mentors and their specific research areas. Some interns work on clinical studies and interact with clinical trial participants, while others participate in laboratory research focusing on data analysis and experiments. In some cases, interns may have the opportunity to work in both clinical and lab research. We work to match interns with mentors and types of research that they are most interested in, to the extent possible. We also support interns to network, meet, and

occasionally shadow doctors and other health professionals whose work they are interested in.

Working hours generally start at 9am - 11am and end at 4pm - 6pm, 5 days a week. One half-day each week is set aside for interns to gather and participate in a weekly lecture series focused on various aspects of infectious diseases and research conduct, as well as topics related to pursuing careers in medicine (with time for discussion and Q&A).

15. How do I apply?

Fill out the RedCap application via the provided external URL (<https://redcap.partners.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NCH8W8TLMX4RL7EA>) before the deadline on January 10, 2025.

If you have any additional questions or concerns not addressed here, please feel free to contact us at BRIDGE@bwh.harvard.edu. We appreciate your interest in the BRIDGE Summer Fellowship Program and look forward to your potential participation!