EXROP Student Eligibility and Timeline

In 2003 we created the EXceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP), with the goal of increasing the diversity of the science professoriate. EXROP matches undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds and groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences with HHMI scientists to participate in summer-long research experiences.

Nominated student(s) need not be from the same institution as the HHMI-affiliated faculty nominating the student. Also, the faculty nominator is not responsible for writing a letter of recommendation unless asked by the student.

Although there is no “typical” EXROP student, competitive candidates who have applied for the EXROP program have demonstrated that they are:

- highly motivated, well-prepared, and able to take advantage of a summer experience in the lab of an HHMI-caliber scientist;
- prepared to use their existing knowledge and to learn new skills within different lab environments, particularly in a large and high-powered HHMI lab;
- interested in pursuing a career in academic science;
- able to accurately present their knowledge, skills, and prior research experience within the application. HHMI scientists and staff use application information to match students with labs and specific projects.
- independent and mature enough to develop new relationships and figure out how to maneuver around a new university and city.

EXROP Student Eligibility Requirements

- Students from a disadvantaged or underrepresented background.
- Students who will be enrolled as undergraduates in their institution in the fall 2014. Students who will graduate by the spring of 2014 will not be eligible to participate.
- Students who will commit to at least 10 weeks for a summer research experience.
- Students who have the potential and maturity to excel in an independent research project.
- Students interested in graduate school and who have the potential to excel in graduate work.
- Students who have the potential to become our future leaders in academic science.
- Students do not need prior research experience, but a large majority of successful applicants have had prior research experience.
- Students do not need to be U.S. citizens, but international students must be able to complete federal tax forms and provide us with their U.S. tax payer identification information to receive the $4,500 stipend.
- Students may need to confirm that they have health insurance that extends through the entire summer research experience.

2014 EXROP Timeline

- **November 1, 2013** – Online EXROP application available for nominated students through the HHMI competition website. HHMI will email students with instructions to access the website.
- **November 15, 2013** – Deadline for invited faculty to submit their student nominations. Submission includes providing name, undergraduate institution, phone, email address, and verification of eligibility for your nominated student(s).
- **December 2, 2013** – Deadline for EXROP application and supporting materials.
- **Mid January 2014** – Notification of EXROP award to students. All awarded students will participate in an interactive online web information session before accepting/declining the award.
- **January 31, 2014** – Deadline for students to accept/decline EXROP award.
- **February and March 2014** – HHMI will match students with their summer research mentors.
- **May 14-16, 2014** – Annual EXROP meeting for all 2013 and 2014 students at HHMI headquarters. New students will connect with experienced students, share expectations, and learn from each other. HHMI scientists who have been matched with a 2014 EXROP student will be invited to the meeting.
- **Late May or early June 2014** – Students begin their 10-week summer programs, with specific start and end dates determined by HHMI staff.