

Diversity Travel Award Guidelines



Ten Diversity Travel Awards in the amount of \$1000 each are being offered. The intent of these travel awards is to increase attendance of diverse students to the National MD/PhD Student Conference. Diverse students are broadly defined by the NIH as follows:

- Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis. The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.
- Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those coming from a social, cultural, or educational environment that has recently, demonstrably, and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop a research career. Such environments may include rural or inner-city settings.

Note: Applications related to disadvantaged backgrounds are difficult to justify for students at the graduate level. Under extraordinary circumstances, the selection committee, at its discretion, may consider applications related to disadvantaged backgrounds. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and the student must supply supportive explanations and documentation. Additional information about diversity qualification can be found at: <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/resources/faq#867>

Recipients of the ten Travel Awards will be chosen on a competitive basis by a review committee. The key criterion for selection will be the quality of the research abstract submitted by the award applicant describing their recent scientific work. For incoming and 1st year MD/PhD students, abstracts can cover research completed as undergraduates or technicians, whereas more senior MD/PhD students should submit work based on a graduate laboratory rotations or thesis work. If a student selected for a Diversity Travel Award has already registered for the meeting, a reimbursement check for \$1000 will be processed for his or her institution. If the student has not already registered for the conference, our organizing committee will register the student and defray the registration fee. A check will then be processed to reimburse travel and/or hotel expenses.

Applicants must complete the following:

1. Submit a research abstract with registration and indicate the diversity category for which you are eligible.
2. If desired, submit an explanation on why you qualify for a diversity award up to 2000 characters long.