EXPAND Fellowship Application

Criteria for Applicant Selection

EXPAND is a research training program supported by the National Science Foundation (https://expand.virginia.edu/). This program offers a full fellowship (tuition plus stipend) for one year (non-renewable) to several graduate students in the life sciences with a priority to those conducting interdisciplinary research on the phenotype. Fellowship support is intended, in part, to allow students the time and flexibility to participate in an internship with the goal of exploring career options. Application instructions are delineated below.

Preference will be given to students who have participated in EXPAND program offerings including courses, professional development opportunities and other activities. Evaluation of applicants will consider a student’s year in their graduate program. Finally, contribution to the diversity of the EXPAND fellowship cohort via a student’s graduate program, discipline, demographic factors and/or contribution to diversity enhancing activities will be considered in evaluation of the applications.

Fellowship recipients are required to be...

• Conducting integrative research
• Co-advised
• US Citizens or Permanent Residents (NSF requirement)

Preference for fellowships will be given to students who...

• Conduct research that integrates across disciplines/tools/levels of investigation
• Have co-advisors in different disciplines
• Will have advanced to candidacy by the start of fellowship
• Are in the 4th year of their PhD program for the term of the fellowship

Instructions

Applicants are required to submit all parts of the application in a single document, in PDF format. Please designate each portion of the application with the headings listed under ‘Application Materials’. Final application should be sent to expand@virginia.edu by March 1, 2022.

Application Materials

1) Demographic Information

• PhD Program
• Year admitted to Program
• Year in Program
• Are you a US citizen or a Permanent Resident? (NSF requirement)
• In accordance with the NSF-defined workforce diversity characteristics, we ask that you share the following information about yourself:
  o Race/Ethnicity
  o Are you Latino/a?
  o Gender
  o Are you a first-generation college student?
  o Do you have a disability?
2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

EXPAND encourages participation by students from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities. In one paragraph, describe how you will join us in our commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive STEM community.

3) Past EXPAND Activities

Indicate your participation in any of the following EXPAND program offerings:

- GSCI8500-001, Integrative Studies of the Phenotype
- GSCI8500-003, Career Design for the Life Sciences
- BIOL8240, Professional Skills for the Life Sciences I
- BIOL8250, Professional Skills for the Life Sciences II
- Professional development via PhD+
- Internships
- Other EXPAND activities

4) Research Program

Write a narrative, maximum of two pages (single-spaced including citations and any figures, 12-point font, 1” margins), describing your research program, with a focus on how it integrates across multiple disciplines in the Life Sciences in the study of phenotype. Make sure there is a clear statement of the conceptual problem, hypotheses, and how an interdisciplinary approach will EXPAND understanding.

5) Career Development

Write one paragraph detailing why an EXPAND fellowship will be beneficial to your development as a scientist and how you will use the opportunity provided by the fellowship to develop your career. Specific internship plans are not expected, but applicants should indicate their commitment to engaging in the internship during the fellowship.

6) Advisors’ Mentoring Plan

The applicant, their advisor, and co-advisor(s) should work collaboratively to develop, write and sign a one page plan for the fellowship year that describes the mentoring plan and how co-mentoring will be conducted. Advisors should explicitly detail how they will conduct co-mentoring to facilitate integrative research training.

Timeline

- Application is due March 1.
- Recipients will be notified by March 21 via email to students, faculty advisors, DGSs and department chairs.

Questions?
Please email expand@virginia.edu