



Call for Genetics Training Program Applications

Application deadline: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Announcing openings for multiple T32 predoctoral traineeships in the U of U Genetics Training Program. The UGTP provides partial stipend support, supplemental funds, and training activities for graduate students doing genetic and genomic research, broadly defined.

The goal of our program is to support and augment the training that students receive within their home labs and departments. Trainees participate in year-round activities of the Training Program including: UGTP-sponsored seminars, the Annual Retreat, and HGEN 7850 Genetics Conferences, where trainees present their research and participate in discussions and workshops. All trainees also are expected to complete foundational and advanced coursework in genetics and quantitative methods.

Eligibility:

We invite applications from PhD students just completing **Year 1 or Year 2 (graduate school entry dates 2024 or 2023)** and from MD-PhD students just completing **Year MS2 or Research Year 1 (medical school entry dates 2023 or 2022)** who are conducting research in genetics or genomics. NIH requires that T32-supported trainees be US Citizens or Permanent Residents.

If you are unsure whether or not you are eligible for support, please reach out to gillians@genetics.utah.edu prior to preparing your application.

Preparing your application:

Before filling in the online application form, applicants should request 2 letters of recommendation as required and prepare the following documents as PDFs:

1. Your **curriculum vitae** with a description of your education, awards, research experience, presentations, publications, and any other academic or STEM-oriented activities, including outreach, teaching/TAing, or tutoring.
2. A **short description of your thesis research project, formatted as a proposal**. Within your proposal, you should address the following points: i) what is the "big problem" you wish to address; ii) what is the context of your proposed work, the specific open question you want to focus on, and why is it important; iii) what are the specific approaches you will take to address this question, formatted as a set of 2-3 Aims. You should emphasize connections of your project to the field of genetics. Also briefly indicate progress, if any, you have accomplished so far. Include strategic literature references. There is a **limit of two pages, not including references or figures**. Font must be 11pt Arial, single spaced, with 1 inch margins. *While you can and should discuss your project with and receive feedback on your proposal from your advisor, the proposal must be written entirely by the student applicant. Please reach out if you have questions about this guideline.*
3. Copies of your undergraduate and graduate academic **transcripts**. These can be informal; you do not need to obtain official copies.
4. All students: the **committee's report** from your 1st-year Capstone Exam, if available. (We realize that some graduate programs do not provide a written evaluation; if so, you can indicate this in your application.)
5. Second-year students: the **committee's report** from your Qualifying Exam, if available. (We realize that the timing of this requirement varies among departments and/or some departments do not provide a written evaluation; if so, please indicate this in your application.)

You also will need to provide:

6. Brief answers to the following **questions**: (1) What do you specifically hope to gain from participation in the UGTP? (2) What are your current career goals and interests?

7. **Two letters of recommendation, prepared and submitted according to instructions below:**

A. **Primary research mentor letter (lab PI)**. This letter should come from your current lab PI. This letter must address the level of independence with which you developed your ideas and wrote your proposal.

B. **Secondary faculty letter**. This letter should come from a faculty member other than your primary research mentor who is familiar with your academic performance, research involvement, or professional development since entering graduate school (e.g., rotation advisor, capstone/qualifying exam committee member, or course instructors).



Instructions

Submitting your application materials:

1. Submit trainee's application materials to this Google form:
<https://forms.gle/5KFcyGnzB2brFoRRA>
 - A. Fill in all required fields, including statements of career interests and reasons for applying to the UGTP. *Applicants are strongly encouraged to peruse the form and contact gillians@genetics.utah.edu with any questions prior to the deadline.*
 - B. Individual application materials described above need to be saved in PDF format smaller than 10MB for upload.
 - C. You should fill in the entire form and submit all application materials in one session. Please check that you have uploaded correct materials prior to hitting submit.
2. Provide these instructions to both your PI and secondary letter writer:
 - All LORs should be submitted directly by recommenders by **midnight Tuesday, June 17, 2025**.
 - Thesis lab advisors **must** comment on the level of independence with which students developed their ideas and prepared their research proposals. You can do this within your letter or separately in the form. *While we encourage you to help guide your student as they prepare your application, the proposal must be written entirely by the student applicant. Please reach out if you have questions about this guideline.*
 - For all recommenders: the selection committee especially values comments about a student's specific potential to benefit from and contribute to our scientifically-diverse community of trainees.
 - Google form for submitting letters of recommendation:
<https://forms.gle/1styKagQqBs9fSS49>
 - The form accepts PDF and Word formats.
 - You should receive email confirmation that each letter has been received.
 - If you have questions, or encounter difficulty submitting a letter, please reach out to gillians@genetics.utah.edu.
 - Thank you for providing a letter and for your support of the Training Program.