

# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)



Updated September 2024



## AT A GLANCE

### Submission Period

September 23–  
November 25, 2024

### Expectation

Conduct research at the  
National Cancer Institute

### Eligibility

Postbaccalaureate (including  
post-master's) individuals,  
graduate students, and  
postdoctoral fellows

### Diversity

iCURE encourages  
applications from individuals  
from diverse backgrounds.

## WHAT IS THE ICURE PROGRAM?

iCURE recruits cohorts of students and scientists from diverse backgrounds into the multidisciplinary environment of NCI and supports their mentored research experiences.

NCI values diversity and particularly encourages applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the cancer research workforce, for example those from the groups noted in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)), such as Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, as well as individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

iCURE is an extension of the NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity's (CCHÉ) highly successful extramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) training program. CURE supports the career progress of its scholars toward research independence and fosters diversity in the biomedical research pipeline.

## WHAT DOES ICURE OFFER?

The iCURE program provides up to:

- » **Two-year awards** for postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals
- » **Two-year awards** for graduate students
- » **Three-year awards** for postdoctoral fellows

iCURE scholars will also enjoy professional and career support, such as:

- » Opportunities to work closely with world-class researchers at NCI
- » Support from NCI program staff as well as resources on intramural and extramural funding opportunities
- » Professional and career development activities
- » Connections to an extensive mentoring network



## WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?

For more information about  
iCURE, eligibility, and how to  
apply, please visit

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/innovative-programs/icure>.



cancer.gov/cche



@NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity



@NCICCHE



## CONTACT

If you are interested in applying, please contact:

Jessica Calzola, Ph.D., P.M.P.  
Gregory Adams, Jr., Ph.D., M.S.  
[iCURE@nih.gov](mailto:iCURE@nih.gov)

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

The application timeline for the current cycle is as follows:

September 23–  
November 25, 2024  
Application Accepted

January  
Application Review

February  
First-Round Decisions

February-May  
Interviews

June  
Final Award Decisions

September 1  
iCURE Start Date

For more detailed information about the application process and program requirements, please visit the iCURE webpage or email [iCURE@nih.gov](mailto:iCURE@nih.gov).

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

Eligible candidates include:

- » Postbaccalaureate (including post-master’s) individuals, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows
- » Citizens, non-citizen nationals, and individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States

NCI values diversity and particularly encourages applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the cancer research workforce, for example those from the groups noted in the Notice of NIH’s Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)).

## WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH EXPERIENCES DOES ICURE OFFER?

iCURE scholars will enjoy research opportunities in the [Center for Cancer Research \(CCR\)](#), the [Center for Global Health \(CGH\)](#), the [Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics \(DCEG\)](#), and the [Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences \(DCCPS\)](#).

## BECOMING AN ICURE SCHOLAR

You must submit an application to be considered for an iCURE research experience. Once your application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by iCURE program staff and NCI principal investigators (PIs) who are interested in being research mentors. You will complete several interviews during the matching process, both with iCURE staff and with PIs. More than one PI may offer to interview you. This comprehensive process ensures a thoughtful and thorough mutual matching of scholars with research mentors, setting the stage for a productive and successful research experience.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### **Can I participate in iCURE and continue to conduct research at my current institution?**

No, iCURE supports mentored research experiences within the NCI research campuses in Bethesda, Rockville, and Frederick, Maryland.

### **When do iCURE research experiences begin?**

The target start date for iCURE cohorts is September 1, but can be flexible within reason.

### **I have a work permit/student visa. Am I eligible for an iCURE award?**

iCURE scholars must be a citizen or non-citizen national of the United States or an individual who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

### **Do iCURE scholars get paid?**

Yes, scholars receive a monthly stipend that is determined by their education level, GPA, and relevant experience. For details on stipends, refer to the [Cancer Research Training Awards Manual](#).

### **Does iCURE pay for relocation or housing expenses?**

No, iCURE does not provide relocation or housing costs.

### **Do I need to identify a mentor with whom I wish to work?**

No, you do not need to identify or contact a PI or research group when you apply to the iCURE program. iCURE will help you match with a mentor. However, we encourage you to let us know if you are interested in a specific PI or project.

### **Can I interview with more than one potential mentor?**

Yes, you may be offered interviews with more than one PI. Additionally, more than one PI may express interest in you joining their research group. You may choose to accept or decline the offers you receive.

### **What if the research group I am interested in isn't listed on the iCURE website?**

Please let us know the research group you are interested in, and we will follow up.

### **Do I need to submit written recommendations with my application?**

No, you do not need to provide reference letters, only the information required in the application. We will contact references directly for recommendations.

### **Do I need to submit an official transcript by the application deadline?**

No, you may provide an unofficial transcript when you apply. However, you may be asked to provide an official transcript at a later date.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### **What if I need more time to complete my research than the period of support iCURE offers?**

iCURE PIs may choose to continue to support your research past the period of support iCURE provides. You will still be welcome to engage with iCURE staff and participate in iCURE activities.

### **I am currently an intramural trainee at NCI or another Institute or Center at NIH.**

#### **Am I eligible to apply?**

iCURE primarily aims to recruit individuals from diverse backgrounds from outside of NIH to conduct research at NCI. Individuals who are already conducting research at NIH may be considered on a case-by-case basis with strong justification. Individuals who are current Cancer Research Training Award/ Intramural Research Training Award fellows and who have been in their current position for longer than 12 months at the time of iCURE application are not eligible to apply. Individuals who already have committed funding support in the upcoming year are not eligible to apply.

### **Can I defer my iCURE program acceptance a year?**

No, if you want to join the program at a later date, you must resubmit an application in the fiscal year during which you plan to start.

### **Can I save my application and finish/update it later?**

Yes, you have the option to save your application and submit it later.

### **Will my application be reviewed for opportunities at other NIH Institutes or Centers?**

No, the iCURE program is for NCI only. If you are interested in other NIH Institutes or programs, please refer to the respective websites.

### **Where will I live during my fellowship?**

If you are selected and offered a fellowship, you will be responsible for finding your own housing. The program will send you a list of housing resources that will be useful in your search.

### **How can I get information about specific NCI investigators whom I might contact about the research that they are conducting?**

Information regarding NCI intramural research programs is available in the [Research Experience](#) section of the iCURE webpage.



## WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?

For the full text of this program announcement, visit: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/innovative-programs/icure>.

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