NCI Cancer Research Postbac (CRP) Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated November 25, 2024

1. Are individuals with Master's level degrees eligible to apply for CRP?
    a. CRP is limited to individuals post-bachelor's degree. For postbac opportunities available to Master's level students, please visit the [general NIH Postbac Program website](#).

2. If I am ineligible for CRP, what other ways are there to obtain a postbac fellowship opportunity at NCI?
    a. The following **pathways** are available to you:
        i. Use the [Train at NCI – Find a Training Program tool](#) to identify other programs of interest.
        ii. Review the research areas of individual NCI Divisions, Offices, and Centers and contact investigators directly.
        iii. Apply to the general [NIH Postbac Program](#). Investigators with open positions may contact you directly.
        iv. Review open fellowship postings: please see [Cancer Training at NCI](#) for a list of opportunities across NCI.

3. How large is the CRP Cohort?
    a. Up to 12 candidates will be selected for the 2025 CRP Cohort.

4. What is the CRP acceptance rate?
    a. The acceptance rate varies from year-to-year based on the total number of applicants, available postbac slots, and successfully matching with investigators.

5. What happens if I were accepted into both CRP and the general NIH Postbac Program?
    a. Contact the [CRP Program Manager](#) to discuss your available options.

6. How important is GPA when applying to CRP?
    a. CRP has no minimum GPA requirement. However, some NCI investigators may take GPA into account when deciding who to interview and how to rank applicants during the interview and matching process.

7. My research experience is in an unrelated field, should I still apply?
    a. All CRP applicants are expected to demonstrate current or past research experience of some kind equivalent to a 10-week-long full-time summer internship. Acceptance into the program is based on a variety of factors including research experience, as well as matching with an investigator during the interview process. Be sure to describe your research interests and prior research experience thoroughly and throughout your application materials.

8. Is there a preference for who should write my letter of reference?
    a. You should ask individuals who can speak to your aptitude, accomplishments, and character in a scientific- or research-focused capacity. For example, teachers/professors, employers, and research mentors/supervisors.

9. If a reference is unable to submit their letter in time, can I add someone else to my application?
    a. While only two references are required for the application, you can add additional references. If you're concerned one of your references will be unable to submit a letter of recommendation in time, consider adding additional references or asking two individuals who can submit their letter by the deadline.

10. Is there housing available/do you offer housing?
    a. While NIH doesn't offer on-campus housing, there are resources available for helping postbacs move to the area. Some of these resources can be found through the [Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Moving Guide](#).

11. Is it possible to telework or work remotely?
    a. Opportunities for telework are limited to one day a week at most and are considered by investigators on a case-by-case basis. There are no fully remote research opportunities available through CRP.

12. What if I have additional questions?
    a. Review our most recent webinar recording and slides on the CRP [cancer.gov page](#).
    b. Visit the [Train at NCI FAQ page](#) for more information.
    c. Submit your question through the [Train at NCI Contact Us page](#).
    d. Email the CRP Program Manager at [ncicrp@nih.gov](#).