

NCI Cancer Research Intern (CRI) Summer Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated November 25, 2024

1. If I am ineligible for CRI, what are other ways to obtain a summer internship opportunity at NCI?
 - a. The NCI hosts Summer Fellows each year in the general SIP (Summer Internship Program) administered by the NIH OITE (Office of Intramural Training and Education). To apply please go to: www.training.nih.gov so that your application materials are available to Investigators who are looking to fill their general summer fellowships. In addition, it is advisable to review the research areas of the labs and branches that are of interest to you. When you have completed the general SIP application, please let prospective mentors know that you are in the OITE database. The deadline for OITE summer applications is February 19, 2025.

1. What if I don't meet the GPA requirement of 3.0?
 - a. Individuals who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements for CRI should consider other pathways to obtaining a training opportunity at NCI including the general Summer Internship Program.

2. If I'm in my first year of undergraduate, is the GPA requirement based on my fall semester transcripts or my high school transcripts?
 - a. If you submit your application prior receiving your first semester grades, you may submit your high school transcripts for review.

3. How large is the CRI Cohort?
 - a. Up to 30 interns will be accepted for participation in the 2025 CRI Summer Program.

4. What is the acceptance rate for CRI?
 - a. The acceptance rate varies from year to year based on the number of applicants, available intern slots, and research interests/matching with investigators.

5. Are graduate/doctoral/pharmacy students eligible for CRI?
 - a. Yes, graduate/doctoral/pharmacy are eligible for the CRI Summer Program. You must be a current full-time student with cancer-related research interests in addition to meeting our other eligibility criteria, which you can find on our [Train at NCI website](#).

6. Are you more likely to be accepted based on prior research experience?
 - a. Our CRI Summer Program does not require any prior research experience to apply and serves as a research opportunity for those with limited or no previous research experience. We encourage those, regardless of prior experience, to apply if they are interested in conducting cancer research. Acceptance into the program is based on a variety of factors including the number of available slots, application package as well as matching with the investigator's research area.

7. Where is the research conducted?
 - a. NCI research is conducted across three different campuses in the state of Maryland:
 - i. NIH's Main Campus in Bethesda, Maryland
 - ii. Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research in Frederick, Maryland
 - iii. Shady Grove in Rockville, Maryland
 - b. Opportunities for telework are limited to no more than 1 day a week and are considered by investigators on a case-by-case basis.
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 interns locate housing for the summer. Some of these resources can be found through the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Moving Guide, here: https://training.nih.gov/documents/1/Moving_Guide.pdf
11. Should I reach out to NCI investigators during the CRI application process?
 - a. We do not recommend that CRI applicants contact NCI investigators during the application process. Following notifications on March 1, selected applicants will be contacted by NCI investigators to arrange interviews for the matching process.
12. What's the best way to search for NIH investigators that are looking for research interns?
 - a. If you are selected for the matching process of CRI, NCI scientists and staff will reach out to you for interviews based on your application materials and listed research interests. CRI Summer Program Administration staff will also assist you with finding investigators in the event you aren't contacted directly by investigators during the initial matching process. You can also find investigators using the resources shared above (see question #1).
13. What happens if I were accepted into both the CRI program and the general SIP?
 - a. Contact to the CRI Program Manager to discuss your available options.