

Application Instructions for 2026-27 NIH Genetics Training Grant Traineeship

We encourage all NIH eligible first and second year PhD students in trainers' labs to apply for a traineeship. Third year students may apply, but are granted traineeships only in exceptional circumstances and are always funded by UGA matching slots. Current trainees must also apply to be considered for a second year of support. If you are selected for a traineeship, you will be required to fulfill all training requirements, as outlined below. Trainees are selected by members of the Training Grant Committee. Please contact Mary Goll (Mary.Goll@uga.edu) with any questions.

Applicant prerequisites:

- Student must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the US.
- Student must be in good standing at the University of Georgia, *i.e.*, not on academic probation.
- Student must be on track with respect to deadlines, especially committee meetings and timing of written and oral exams (Departmental Graduate Affairs Committees may extend deadlines upon student petition).
- Student must be currently enrolled as a PhD graduate student, performing genetics research in a trainer's lab. [See the list of faculty trainers here.](#)
- Student must currently be in years 1–3 of their PhD program. All NIH-funded traineeships are awarded to students who apply during years 1-2, and in exceptional cases a student in year 3 may be awarded a traineeship funded by a UGA matching slot.
- Student must be willing to commit to all the training requirements of the training program.
- Student's advisor must commit to taking mentor training if they have not already done so.

Complete applications must be received by March 17, 2026 at 5pm to be considered.

Student applicants should submit the following by email to Susan White (whites@uga.edu). Your application must be formatted in NIH style, with 11 point Arial font and 0.5 inch margins.

I. Background information:

1. Undergraduate science courses. Do not list grades.
2. Graduate courses with grades. Indicate which courses were taken at UGA. Please note which UGA graduate courses have a substantial genetics component and which emphasize quantitative training.

II. Timeline:

1. Month and year of matriculation into PhD program.
2. Oral and written exam dates (actual or planned).

III. Statement of interest: A statement of interest containing the following sections:

- 1: Describe how your prior research experience, coursework, and/or activities have prepared you for graduate training. For students who have been in their thesis laboratory more than a year, discuss your past research progress and activities in your thesis lab. Maximum 250 words.
2. Describe your current research, including your dissertation research. *Your statement must include details describing the genetic elements of your research.* Maximum 300 words.
3. Describe your current career objective and briefly how a traineeship would benefit your research, training, and career goals. Maximum 100 words.
- 4: Describe what unique qualities, viewpoints, and experiences you will bring to the T32 training community? Maximum 100 words.

Note: This statement should be written by the student, but input from the student's advisor is encouraged.

IV. Academic CV (see the example CV that follows)

V. Extenuating circumstances (optional): You may submit a brief statement (<100 words) describing extenuating circumstances that have affected your research progress or outcomes.

Iris M. A. Student

Departmental Affiliation
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Email: imastudent@uga.edu
Website: <http://website.student>

EDUCATION (List previous degree(s) and institutions.)

- 2017-current PhD student. Department of Genetics, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Dissertation Project: The answer to the most important question in genetics.
Major Professor: Dr. P. Eye
- 2013-2017 B.A. (Biology) with Honors. State College, City, State

AWARDS/HONORS (List any awards or honors received.)

- 2019 UGA Genetics Student Association Travel Award (\$300)
- 2018 Outstanding Teaching Assistant award, UGA graduate school
- 2018 Genetics Society of America Travel Award (\$400)
- 2017 Most Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, State College, City, State
- 2016 State College Undergraduate Research travel award (\$200)
- 2016 State College Undergraduate Research summer fellowship (\$1200)

PUBLICATIONS (List all publications and indicate those that were peer-reviewed. Include manuscripts that are in BioRxiv or have been submitted for publication.)

Peer-Reviewed

- Student, I. M. A., and P. Eye. 2019. Journal impact factor declines exponentially with number of submissions. In review Science Methods.
- Student, I. M. A., L. A. B. Teck, and P. Eye. 2019. Higher publication rate negatively associated with social interactions: a double-blind study. J. Unfortunate Results 37: 134-136 (Cover).
- Fellow, P. D., I. M. A. Student, and P. Eye. 2018. Higher publication rate increases success in graduate school. J. Anticipated Results 7:13-19.
- P. Eye, P. D. Fellow, I. M. A. Student and 75 other authors. 2018. Individual contribution declines with number of authors: a meta-analysis of genome papers. J. Predictable Results 1: 13-17.
- Visor, A. D., and I. M. A. Student. 2017. Gait changes upon leg loss in arboreal lizards. Trauma Biology 14:357-359.

Other

- Student, I. M. A. 2018. Estimate of cockroach density in a college research laboratory. Georgia Insects and Infestation 12:13.

RESEARCH SUPPORT (List all research/training support applied for and any funding that was awarded.)

Awarded

- 2018 Method for rapidly estimating cockroach density in state buildings. GA DNR. (\$700)
- 2017 Estimating author contribution in multi-author studies. Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research. (\$1000)

In review

- 2020 Improving upon the answer to the most important question in genetics. NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$15,000)

Applied for but not awarded

- 2017 Survey of Caribbean arboreal lizards. National Geographic Society.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING (Include any relevant courses you have participated in outside of those listed previously. Also list any industry internships or other relevant training experiences.)

- 2019 QTL mapping and Advanced QTL mapping. Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, University of Washington
2017 Advanced Tropical Ecology. Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica.

POSTERS / PRESENTATIONS (List scientific posters/talks given, including at UGA. Indicate whether talks were in person or by Zoom.)

Oral presentations

- 11/2019 A preliminary answer to the most important question in genetics. EDGE. UGA. In person.
06/2018 A Bayesian approach for the rapid estimation of cockroach density in a building. Georgia Insect Control Annual Conference. GA. Zoom.
10/2018 What is the most important question in genetics? EDGE. UGA. In person.

Poster presentations

- 06/2019 A preliminary answer to the most important question in genetics. Society for the Study of Evolution, annual meeting.
06/2017 Alterations in gait lessen the impact of limb loss in arboreal lizards. Annual International Lizard Symposium.

TEACHING / MENTORING (List the courses you have taught and your role in those courses. List the students whose research you have mentored in the laboratory.)

- 2018-19 Supervised CURO Honors Thesis research of Student Name. Helping to answer to the most important question in genetics.
2018 Mentored an ILS rotation student, Name Here.
2019 Young Dawgs high school internship program. Supervised Student Name. Why genetics is fun.
2018 Spring semester. Teaching Assistant, Evolution (GENE 3000).

OUTREACH / SERVICE (List outreach and any other contributions. Examples include departmental service, presentations in K-12 classrooms, consulting with students or teachers on projects, and judging science fairs.)

- 2018-20 Judge. State Science and Engineering Fair, GA. One full day per year.
09/2018 Interactive public presentation: Lizards of Georgia. Memorial Park Zoo. Athens, GA.
05/2018 Guest presenter: Georgia lizards and snakes. Classroom visit. Clarke Middle School. Athens, Georgia.
03/2019 UGA Genetics Graduate Student Association Travel Award Review Panel.
2016-17 UGA Genetics Graduate Student Association Co-President.

WORK EXPERIENCE (List jobs and internships you held with and approximate hours/week. List only experiences that are not already listed above.)

- 3/18-7/19 McDonalds. Lead Cashier. 10 hours/week.

OTHER ACTIVITIES (List sports, clubs, or other activities that are not listed above. Indicate any leadership positions you held.)

- 2017-2020 AAA Sorority. Membership coordinator (2018), fundraising lead (2019).
2017-2020 Basketball team, University of Awesome. Co-Captain.