

## **ADMISSION AND FUNDING**

Approved, 03/13/2019

### **1. Admission Requirements**

Applicants to the program are expected to meet a number of criteria, as listed below. The Recruitment Committee selects applicants for video and then on-site interviews based on those criteria, but reserves the right to make exceptions based on a candidate's strengths in other areas. Usually, applicants should have:

- An undergraduate degree in biology or other pertinent area of science.
- A strong foundation in chemistry (general and organic) and physics.
- Completion of one year of mathematics, preferably calculus.
- A grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in the 50th percentile or better. The subject test in Biology is recommended, but not required.
- All applicants whose primary language is not English are required to submit their test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

To be considered for financial support, completed Ph.D. applications should be submitted by December 15 for admission the following Fall. Spring admission is only considered in exceptional cases. Applications should include all undergraduate and graduate transcripts, GRE scores, three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and TOEFL scores (if applicable). Letters of recommendation or the previous work record should show some indication that research potential exists.

### **2. Financial support**

As the program is to a significant degree based on faculty research endeavors, admission depends not only on prior academic performance, but also critically on available opportunities and funding in individual or collaborating laboratories, which can vary considerably from year to year. Student funding usually comes from a combination of Teaching Assistantships, University Fellowships, extramural stipends, and faculty research grants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact potential mentors to discuss opportunities. Both incoming and continuing students are also encouraged to apply to national, regional, and state level funding agencies to obtain support for their intended research.

### **3. Teaching Assistantships**

Incoming full-time matriculated students are awarded Teaching Assistantships or nominated for University Fellowships on a competitive basis by the Department Chairs, on the recommendations of the Recruitment Committee and the Graduate Directors. Teaching Assistantships are academic or calendar year awards and are renewable on a yearly basis, usually for not longer than a total of five years.