Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (MPSI)
Pre-doctoral Training Program Application 2016-2017

Application deadline: Friday, May 20, 2016

The MPSI Pre-doctoral Training Program is open to a limited number of graduate student trainees, post master’s degree or equivalent, committed to excellence in research and a career focused on developmental science, especially in family and community settings.

Benefits

The Training Program provides a significant number of benefits, responsibilities and opportunities in an interdisciplinary research environment. Its apprentice-model focuses on essential experiences in research, education, and community engagement related to infant, child and adolescent development. The Training Program also provides students with structured professional development opportunities. Trainees are cultivated as junior colleagues and work closely with faculty research mentors in shared scholarly pursuits.

The specific benefits for trainees include:

- An award of $1,500 per semester (students are permitted and encouraged to have other sources of funding)
- Up to $500 to participate/present research at a professional conference related to developmental science
- Eligible to apply for $300 in Fall and Winter semesters to participate in a relevant scientific conference in which the student is the first and presenting author
- Advanced training and preparation for a research career, including:
  - Focus on research publications and national presentations
  - Opportunity to interact with nationally known experts
  - Broad-based professional development
  - Training in grant writing and publication

Trainee Responsibilities and Expectations

- Education
  - Maintain solid academic progress in home department/school
  - Develop MPSI Individual Development Plan and report progress
- Research
  - Be engaged actively in relevant research
  - Submit one peer-reviewed publication per year
  - Attend regular MPSI Research Colloquia (usually two per month)
  - Present at the annual MPSI/IOG Lifespan Alliance Research Day
• Professional Development
  o Attend the MPSI-IOG Professional Development series presentations
  o Participate actively in the MPSI Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
  o Participate in MPSI governance as a representative to monthly faculty meetings (this responsibility alternates among GSO members)
  o Participate in hosting scientific visitors to MPSI

• Community Engagement and Outreach
  o Participate in community-based activity relevant to research and education goals

**Application Procedure**

The criteria for admission are:
• Completed master’s degree or equivalent before Aug 2016 (preferred)
• Strong academic record
• Research experience and productivity
• Confirmed commitment and support of faculty mentor
• Sound scientific writing skills

**Deadline for Applications is May 20, 2016.**

Email a completed application to the Pre-doctoral Training Director (Dr. Hilary Ratner, hilary.ratner@wayne.edu) by May 20, 2016 for evaluation and selection. Decisions will be communicated by June 3, 2016. Trainees are enrolled in August 2016 for one 12-month period.

Application packages should be submitted as a single PDF file with a cover letter. A letter of support from applicant’s mentor may be submitted separately. An application package must include all the following:
• *Curriculum Vitae* (max 10 pages)
• Wayne State University academic transcript
• One-page personal statement of career goals related to infant, child, or adolescent development and multidisciplinary research interests
• Letter of support / recommendation from proposed faculty mentor
• One sample of scientific writing (e.g., a class paper or first-author published work)
• Cover letter to include reasons for wanting to participate in the training program, and how it would advance applicant’s research career. If applicant has previously participated in MPSI events it is helpful to include description of those activities (e.g., MPSI Research Colloquium series, MPSI/IOG Professional Development series, MPSI/IOG Lifespan Alliance Annual Research Day, other MPSI activities)

Contact the Director of the MPSI Pre-doctoral Training Program, Dr. Hilary Ratner, for more information. Tel: 313-664-2777 or Email: hilary.ratner@wayne.edu