

The San Diego State University Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Program

The SDSU IMSD program is an undergraduate research training program for students whose goal is to earn a Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. In 2017, the IMSD Program was awarded a new five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund undergraduates from 2017 to 2022. Students are selected from the College of Sciences to conduct year-round research under SDSU faculty members. With the help of their faculty mentor, students develop an independent project, which eventually results in research presentations at the local or national level and additional training in scientific related areas.

The SDSU IMSD Program presently has many SDSU alumni enrolled in Ph.D. programs nationwide and many more who have earned a Ph.D. in biomedical science. Those alumni who have completed their Ph.D. are currently postdoctoral fellows, professors, or employed elsewhere in the scientific work force.

Funding for the SDSU IMSD Program is from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (www.nih.org). The NIGMS mission is dedicated to improving the participation of historically underrepresented students in the sciences and increasing the number of underrepresented students who matriculate directly to a Ph.D. program. Although this is the primary goal, all students are encouraged to apply to the program, as IMSD seminars and/or professional development workshops are open to all SDSU students.

Applications are accepted year-round. Students focused on the Ph.D. track should apply if they:

- Are currently-enrolled undergraduates majoring in the College of Sciences
- Have a goal of entering a Ph.D. program in biomedical research science directly after graduation
- Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Hold a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Have at least two semesters available to commit to the program

After the applications are evaluated, selected students are invited for an interview. Upon acceptance into the program, all IMSD scholars must interview with three faculty research mentors before joining the research group. Considerable emphasis is based on placing students in labs suiting their research interests. The IMSD Program provides financial support to fund student research, lab trainee supplies, travel funding to present at local or national conferences, GRE preparation, tutoring, and other program benefits. Funding for undergraduates accepted into the IMSD Program is contingent on the progress each student makes in research, academic standing, and participation in IMSD-related events.

To learn about the research areas available to students, please visit the department web pages in the College of Sciences and view faculty profiles.

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This application may be directly downloaded from the SDSU IMSD homepage at:

<http://sci.sdsu.edu/imsd/imsd-scholars/apply/>

Applications are accepted year round and should be sent to the following address:

The SDSU IMSD program, GMCS 322-C
Attn: IMSD Selection Committee
San Diego State University
College of Sciences
5500 Campanile Dr.
San Diego, CA 92181-1016

A complete application consists of:

- 1) a one-page personal statement describing your personal background, your research interests, experiences and/or future goals, and your reasons for wishing to participate in the SDSU IMSD program
- 2) the completed Application Form (TYPED) available for download on the IMSD website
- 3) an updated resume
- 4) a copy of your unofficial transcript from the SDSU Web portal and official transcripts from all colleges attended.
- 5) two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a science faculty member who can address your intellectual and personal suitability for the program. If you have previously participated in a summer program or other off-campus research, a letter from your supervisor would be very helpful.

All letters of recommendation must be addressed to the SDSU IMSD Selection Committee. They may be emailed directly to or sealed, signed, and sent separately by the recommender(s).

Inquiries about the SDSU IMSD Program are welcome and they may be directed to Michelle Altemus in the College of Sciences at 619-594-3744 or via email at maltemus@sdsu.edu