

# PFIZER UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

**Background:** Brandeis undergraduate students can apply for a Pfizer fellowship to conduct summer research in cellular and/or molecular biology at Brandeis. Nationwide, 60-80 universities are invited by Pfizer to nominate one or two applicants for this highly competitive award. Approximately 12 students will be selected among the 120-160 applicants considered. **The award is intended as an opportunity for students whose primary interest is to pursue a career in research.**

## **Eligibility and requirements.**

The Pfizer award is to conduct summer research at Brandeis University between your junior and senior year. You must be doing research at the time of application.

Your proposed research must be in cellular or molecular biology.

Your scholastic record should be good (but is not the only consideration).

**Nomination procedure.** Your application will be evaluated by Brandeis science faculty. The best one or two Brandeis applicants will be nominated to Pfizer, whose Advisory Committee will select the fellowship recipients.

The following **selection criteria** are used by Pfizer, and these criteria will be used by the Brandeis faculty to determine which application(s) from Brandeis will be forwarded to Pfizer for consideration:

Demonstrated interest and talent of the student in molecular biology

Merit and feasibility of the research project

Commitment of the faculty mentor to support the student in his/her work

Academic record, particularly in molecular biology and related sciences

Demonstrated importance of the award in facilitating the personal and career plans of the nominee

**How to apply.** Application forms may be obtained from the Biology Department office (Bassine 119). As stated in the application face page, you must provide:

1. Signed cover sheet (Application face page).
2. Title of your project and a complete description of your proposed research project, authored by you in collaboration with the faculty mentor.
3. A statement from you describing the importance of this opportunity to your personal and career plans.
4. An **official** transcript including grades for courses taken in Fall semester, and a list of courses you are taking this Spring semester.
5. A signed cover sheet and statement from the faculty mentor on your qualifications to carry out the project successfully.

**The completed application is due in the Biology Office no later than Feb. 22nd. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

**The award and conditions for acceptance.** Each award provides \$5000, with a minimum of \$3500 going directly to the student as stipend. Up to \$1500 can be used to provide funds to the mentor for research support and to the department for administrative costs. The distribution of funds will be determined upon receipt of the award. The awardee is expected to carry out research for a minimum of 10 weeks during the summer. *The*

*research is to be full-time, and award recipients cannot take classes or work during the 10-week research period.*

*Award recipients will attend an award ceremony at Pfizer (Groton, CT) in the Fall, and they will present a poster on the results of their research. If a Pfizer fellowship is awarded, the Brandeis awardee is expected to schedule his/her fall semester calendar accordingly [e. g., not to schedule medical or graduate school interviews on that date], and to make any necessary arrangements for make-up of class time and/or exams.*