

Department of Pediatrics/Hassenfeld Institute Research Training Program in Child Health Disparities: Summer Scholars Program

The Summer Scholars Program is made possible through the generous support of the Hassenfeld family. The program is open to Brown University undergraduate, graduate, and medical students with an interest in child health disparities research. Selected Scholars will participate in a **10-week, 30hrs/week internship** and receive a \$5,000 stipend. The Summer Scholars Program embraces Brown's "learning by doing" approach to engaged scholarship. This will provide Scholars the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to ongoing research projects while gaining the knowledge, skills, perspective and experience they will need to become the next generation of child health researchers. It is expected for work to be completed in-person, on-site.

Eligibility

Priority will be given to Brown University undergraduate, graduate (masters and doctoral) and medical students who apply to the program. We will consider outside applicants with strong ties to Rhode Island and/or Brown University. **Approximately 5 students will be selected.**

Overview of the Research Scholars Program for Post-Baccalaureates

The Summer Scholars Program integrates research, clinical practice, public health efforts, and educational programs to provide students real world research experience and mentoring from national experts in child health and health services. Research areas addressed by the Scholars program include, but are not limited to:

- General child advocacy
- Child mental health
- Asthma and other respiratory conditions
- Substance use prevention
- Food insecurity & nutrition
- Marginalized youth
- Maternal depression prevention
- Addressing social determinants of health
- Implementation of evidence-based practices in community settings

Based on their research interests, scholars in the program will be matched with a faculty mentor (though students may also apply with a previously identified mentor). Scholars are expected to attend team research meetings and assist in research activities that may include:

- Conducting literature reviews
- Recruitment and consenting of research participants
- Abstract preparation
- Drafting policy briefs
- Data collection (e.g. phone surveys, qualitative interviews)
- Data analysis

Please see the list of past research projects at the end of this form.

Application Process

To apply, applicants should submit the application form found [here](#) AND email the following materials to hassenfeldinstitute@brown.edu

- Current resume or CV
- Essay of up to 1,000 words describing:
 - Reasons for wanting to participate in the Research Scholars Program for Students
 - Topics of interest relevant to maternal and child health
 - How the internship relates to the applicant's academic work, including relevant courses that have been taken and academic plans
 - How the internship will build toward a thesis or capstone project
 - Future career plans/thoughts
 - Please include your name and current degree program/concentration at the top of the essay
- The name of one Brown faculty mentor who will submit a letter of support on behalf of the applicant
- The letter of support must be emailed directly by the letter writer from their institutional email
- A copy of the Brown University transcript

All application materials (including letter of support) must be received by February 28, 2025. Please email hassenfeldinstitute@brown.edu with any questions.

Selection Criteria

- The academic performance and future promise of the applicant
- The potential of the applicant to benefit from the Research Scholars Program
- The match of the applicant with the goals and activities of available mentors
- Preference for projects that build to a thesis or capstone project

Accepted applicants will be announced by the end of March. Please note that depending on the research project and mentor, scholars may be asked to complete IRB requirements prior to the start date of the internship to limit delays in onboarding.

Award Conditions

The standard internship begins June 3, 2025 and runs through August 12, 2025. A commitment of 30 hours per week is required. Variations in this schedule will be considered for students with academic or other schedule issues. **This should be requested at the time of application.**

Past Research Projects

Past Summer Scholars project topics have included:

- Randomized and longitudinal testing of a digital intervention for collaborative mental health in the perinatal space
- Universal school-based mental health screenings
- Targeted messaging to address underutilization of the WIC program
- Health policy briefs related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Estimating racial and economic disparities in gestational diabetes mellitus among AAPI individuals