

Clinical Research Graduate Program Information for 2009 Admissions

Tufts University Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences is accepting applications for admission in July 2009 to the Clinical Research Graduate Program of the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy (ICRHPS). For information about the Clinical Research Graduate Program, visit the Tufts University Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences web site at <http://www.tufts.edu/sackler/programIntros/clinical.html>. If you have questions not answered below, please contact crgraduateprogram@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible for admission into the Clinical Research Program?

- Eligible candidates are those who are already trained in the medical and health sciences. The Program seeks fully trained physicians, those with clinical degrees (e.g., DDS, DVM, PharmD, etc.), and those with other degrees (e.g., DSc, PhD, etc.) in health services fields interested in a clinical research career.

Do I have to be currently working in a clinical setting in order to apply?

- No. However, most candidates intend to pursue careers as independent investigators in clinical research and are able to demonstrate commitment to this goal.

Can I apply to the Clinical Research Graduate Program if I have completed my coursework and thesis but have not yet received my doctoral degree?

- No. The Clinical Research Program does not accept applications from candidates who do not have doctoral degrees or terminal professional degrees (e.g., MBBS) in the case of international candidates.

How do I apply for the program?

- Online applications can be found at <http://www.tufts.edu/sackler/prospStudents/admissions.html>. No paper applications are accepted.

What are the application deadlines?

- December 1, 2008 is the deadline for those to be considered for a fellowship administered by the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy.
- January 17, 2009 is the deadline for all other applications.

What fellowships are offered?

- The NRSA Fellowship (Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award) is sponsored by the US Government. Only US citizens and permanent residents are eligible.
- The Pfizer Fellowship (Pfizer Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical and Health Services Research) is sponsored by Pfizer Inc. Recipients spend their second summer in the program at the Pfizer headquarters in New York City gaining research experience in the private sector.
- Both of these are highly competitive fellowships that include full tuition in the Clinical Research Graduate Program, annual stipends, office space, research funds, and travel funds.

If I obtain my own fellowship or career development award, may I use it to enroll in the Clinical Research Graduate Program?

- Yes. The program welcomes those with NIH Mentored Patient Oriented Research (K23) awards, NIH/Fogarty Clinical Research Training Scholars Program awards, non-US government fellowships, and awards from private foundations and professional associations.

If I do not want to do a fellowship, may I apply for admission to the Clinical Research Graduate Program only?

- Yes. Students may apply for admission into the Clinical Research Graduate Program only. Students admitted into the Program without fellowship support do not receive stipends and are direct billed for the full tuition cost of the program.

What are the tuition rates for the Clinical Research Graduate Program?

- Please go to <http://www.tufts.edu/sackler/prospStudents/finance.html> for information.

What is the application fee?

- Please refer to the FAQ page of Tufts University Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at <http://www.tufts.edu/sackler/prospStudents/fag.html>. Additional inquiries about the application itself may be directed to sackler-school@tufts.edu.

What is the duration of the program?

- MS students complete the program in two years of fulltime study. Courses begin in July for first-year students. A PhD track is available for qualified students and may be completed in five years.

Do I have to write a thesis for the MS?

- Yes. All students must undertake independent clinical research and submit a final thesis in order to graduate with a MS in Clinical Research.

Is there a certificate program?

- No, although a certificate program is now in development.

Does the Clinical Research Graduate Program offer online courses?

- No. Videoconferencing may be available to those employed at Tufts-affiliated hospitals. In addition, a distance learning program is in development.

Is it possible to take courses without applying for admission to the MS program?

- Yes. However, if a non-matriculated student is subsequently admitted into a degree program not more than two courses completed may count toward degree requirements.

Must I submit GRE scores with my application?

- No. The Clinical Research Graduate Program does not require GRE scores.

I have a copy of my transcripts; can I just send a copy?

- No. Official transcripts must be sent directly to the Sackler School Admissions Office.

Do I have to come to Boston to interview?

- Yes. All fellowship candidates must be available for in-person interviews.

For International Candidates

Must I be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status to enroll in the Graduate Program?

- Citizenship or permanent residency is required for the NRSA fellowship but is not required for the Clinical Research Graduate Program or for the Pfizer fellowship.

Are Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores required?

- Applicants who use English as a non-native language must submit TOEFL scores or other evidence of proficiency.

If I plan on taking classes as a non-matriculated student, would I be eligible for a student visa?

- No. Eligibility criteria for student visas include full-time enrollment in a degree program. For more information about student visas for Tufts University students, see the Tufts Office for International Affairs web site at <http://www.tufts.edu/iao/>.