

2021-22 Genetic and Genomics Scholars program announcement

Sponsored by the Genetics & Genomics Initiative

The Genetics and Genomics (GG) Scholars program is designed to provide financial, scientific, and professional development support for PhD students currently enrolled at or applicants to NC State, who are interested in interdisciplinary research and foundational training in genetics concepts, genome-scale techniques, and career development. The GG Scholars umbrella program is built on the philosophy that the exploration of genes and genomes informs all fields of biology. Incoming GG Scholars are able to explore [a variety of life sciences graduate programs](#) at NC State University during their first year, while current NC State PhD students have the opportunity to expand their training and research capabilities.

Financial Support. We expect to fund 15 students for the academic year 2021-22. These fellowships will include a stipend starting at \$28,000 and full coverage of tuition and health insurance through the Graduate Student Support Plan (GSSP) for the period August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022. Financial support of the GG Scholars after their year in the umbrella program will be provided by the graduate program and/or the laboratory the student selects for their PhD work. Typically, our PhD students are supported by research and teaching assistantships (RAs or TAs), or by training grants. When supported on a qualifying assistantship or fellowship, students will continue to receive coverage of tuition and health insurance through the GSSP for a standard number of semesters.

Scientific and Professional Development. Recipients will join a diverse, multidisciplinary community of graduate students and faculty with interests in the field of Genetics and Genomics as part of the Genetics & Genomic Initiative group. GG Scholars will be required to participate in:

1. An expenses-paid multi-day retreat held off-campus shortly before fall 2021 classes begin (dates for August retreat will be announced).
2. An [innovative, project-based curriculum](#) that integrates foundational conceptual training in genetics and genome-scale techniques with big data analysis and professional development.

Students have the opportunity for **lab rotations and/or industry internships** with mentors from **16 graduate programs** across **6 colleges**, that provide diverse training opportunities.

Nomination Process. *Because of the structure of the GG Scholars program, awards are available to students who are currently at NC State, new students applying to a PhD program at NC State, or new students applying directly to the GGS. For those students who have already chosen their lab or advisor or PhD program, we require a nomination from that advisor or Director of the Graduate Program.* For faculty, please complete and submit a nomination form to include with the applicant packet and submit the attached form to Martha Burford Reiskind (mbreiski@ncsu.edu) by **1 January 2021**. All students should also complete the application form, to be included in the nomination package. Recipients will be announced by **Early March 2021**. Questions about this program should be directed to the GG Scholars program Director (mbreiski@ncsu.edu) or Jenni Wilson (jenni_wilson@ncsu.edu) For more information, go to:

GG Scholars program: <https://ggi.ncsu.edu/graduate-program/>

GG Initiative: <https://ggi.ncsu.edu/about-us/>

NOMINATION FORM

Genetics & Genomics Initiative (GGI) Genetics & Genomics (GG) Scholars program

Sponsored by the Provost Office at NC State University

For DGPs or PIs to nominate a current or incoming graduate student in their graduate program or entering their graduate program at NC State, **please complete this form** and **attach** the following supporting documentation:

1. A letter of nomination, prepared by either the DGP or a PI within one of the GG Scholars affiliated graduate programs, stating strength of the nominee's qualifications—including academic, level of curiosity for interdisciplinary work, and how their interests relate to Genetics & Genomics research.
2. A copy of the nominee's full application to graduate school
3. A Statement of Interest by the nominee (see application question prompt)

This nomination form and all supporting documentation should be combined into a single PDF file (lastname_firstname_GGScholars_2021 .pdf) and returned to Martha Burford Reiskind, mbreiski@ncsu.edu, **by January 1st, 2021**. Direct any questions to Martha Burford Reiskind (mbreiski@ncsu.edu) or Jenni Wilson, graduate coordinator (jenni_wilson@ncsu.edu).

Graduate Program Statement of Nomination

I hereby nominate _____ for the GG Scholars Program.

I understand and agree to the following conditions:

- A. The GG Scholars program provides a fellowship support that includes stipend plus tuition and health insurance. Funding is limited to one year.
- B. Students must maintain good academic standing throughout their term as a GG Scholar.

Signed _____ Date _____

Department Head or Director of Graduate Programs (appropriate authorizing official should sign)

Name of Advisor or DGP

Advisor or DGP's E-Mail Address and Phone #

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Statement of Interest

Applicants for the GG Scholars program, please address the following questions. This statement of interest will be submitted as part of your application package for the GG Scholars program. We will only consider applications that provide complete answers to the following questions below:

- 1) Why are you applying to the Genetics & Genomics Scholars program? What would you bring to this program (your contribution) and what are you hoping to gain from it (what it will give you)? Make sure you answer all three questions posed here. (300 word limit)
- 2) The Genetics & Genomics Scholars program involves a yearlong experience of students with diverse interests learning and working together as a cohort. Describe an experience you have had working on a team and/or across disciplines, and any benefits and challenges that resulted. (300 word limit)
- 3) One of the goals of the GG Scholars program is to develop your scientific collaborative capacity for research projects. Why do you think collaborative research is critical to move science forward? (200 word limit)
- 4) Please choose one to three [affiliated graduate programs](#) (see list below) you would be most interested in joining. If you are already in a degree program at NC State, please list that degree program and the year and semester you began that program. If you choose more than one, you can rank them in order of preference or list them un-ranked. Selections made here will not limit your ability to explore or join other programs on the list.

Affiliated PhD programs:

BIOCHEMISTRY
BIOLOGY
BIOMATHEMATICS
CROP SCIENCE
COMPARATIVE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
ENTOMOLOGY
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS
GENETICS
HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
MARINE, EARTH, & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
MICROBIOLOGY
PLANT BIOLOGY
PLANT PATHOLOGY
TOXICOLOGY