

# GILLIAM APPLICATION TIPS (DEADLINE October 13, 2011)

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## APPLICATION FORMS

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- Observe all submission deadlines.
- Proofread carefully; do not rely on a spell checker.
- Follow guidelines that specify word limitations. Be brief when so requested.
- When submitting your application online, print a copy for your records.

## EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

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- Provide both general and specific career goals. Tell a good story and, if possible, tie your career goals to your scientific interests.
- Highlight the most important personal and/or professional accomplishments you have made.
- If applicable, add information not found elsewhere in the application.
- Focus on qualities and experiences that make your success in graduate school and beyond more likely, such as creativity, independence, motivation, perseverance, and communication and leadership skills. You may also wish to document your ability to face and overcome difficulties.
- Explain any interruptions in your study and employment since you entered college.
- If extenuating circumstance resulted in atypical GRE test scores or grades, include an explanation.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Present each research experience in a way that makes clear why it is of interest. Be sure to place your work in the relevant scientific context.
- Do not focus on techniques. Emphasize the scientific questions you addressed, the general approach you took and your findings and conclusions.
- Clearly describe *your* contributions to the lab.

## LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

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- One of the goals of the Gilliam fellowship is to support future leaders in the scientific community. Use this statement to describe activities and personal qualities that demonstrate your leadership ability and potential.

## PROPOSED PLAN OF RESEARCH AND STUDY

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- This essay should show how you approach scientific research. Remember that this is an example of a project you *might* undertake, not a commitment to a thesis project. You are NOT committed to undertaking this research.
- You should clearly state a testable hypothesis.
- Emphasize the scientific importance of the question and the experimental approach you would take. Do not dwell on experimental details.
- Refer to current literature relevant to your research proposal, and in your proposed area of research.
- Anticipate potential problems and present alternative strategies.
- Explain why the experimental system (e.g., organism, gene or protein) is advantageous for study of the proposed question.
- Discuss your proposed plan with your research adviser and other scientists, and make sure to incorporate their feedback.
- Specify your role and those of your adviser and others in the development of the plan.
- Explain why you have chosen or are considering studying at the institution specified in your application. Include (if applicable) an explanation of why you are remaining at your baccalaureate institution for your graduate work.

## REFERENCES

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- Provide your references with a résumé of your education and research experience. You should also provide them with a copy of your proposed plan for their review.
- If you have had a significant research experience and your supervisor is not submitting a reference letter, explain why. Otherwise, reviewers may wonder why it is absent.
- Some applicants request letters from prominent scientists who do not know them well. Request letters from individuals who can evaluate your potential as a scientist.

*Gilliam Application Questions?*

Contact Dr. Maryrose Franko or Makeda Richardson at [Gilliam@hhmi.org](mailto:Gilliam@hhmi.org).