January 11, 2018

Dear Student:

Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Science Training and Research (MARC U-STAR) is a prestigious program known throughout the country for producing excellent students for Ph.D. programs. We are soliciting applications from our best students (YOU) for this program. Please read the enclosed material and determine whether you might be interested in applying.

Submit your application to Dr. Maria Elena Zavala, Director MARC Program, in the MARC office – EH21218 or mail completed application to:

Maria Elena Zavala  
Program Director, MARC U-STAR  
California State University, Northridge  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330-8303

The deadline for complete applications is **5:00pm February 26, 2018**. Interviews will take place soon thereafter. Interview dates and times will be based on the number of qualified applicants, and the availability of the selection committee. Successful candidates will be notified **no later than Friday March 2, 2018**. (Interviews will be on March 5**th**, 6**th**, or 7**th**).

We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Zavala, Ph.D.  
Director, MARC Program
WHAT IS MARC U-STAR?

Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program is a special training program administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in collaboration with other components of the National Institutes of Health. Goals of the program are:

- to increase the number of capable under represented scientists engaged in biomedical research, and
- to strengthen science curricula and research opportunities at institutions with substantial minority enrollment in order to prepare students for careers in biomedical research.

CSUN has been awarded an Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U*STAR) program to support research training for honors undergraduates in their last two years of their undergraduate careers. The MARC program at CSUN is specifically designed to prepare students to compete successfully for entry into graduate programs leading to the Ph.D. or combined M.D./Ph.D. degree in basic biomedical science. Grants cover tuition and fees, a monthly stipend, and trainee-related expenses for research supplies and travel.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Current CSUN students considered underrepresented in the field of biomedical research as described by the National Institutes of Health, who are declared majors in the School of Science and Mathematics, Department of Health Sciences, Department of Kinesiology, and Department of Psychology are eligible. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required, as well as a desire to obtain a Ph.D. Applicant must be at least a junior and two years from graduating.

Citizenship: The individual to be trained must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment in the case of an institutional award. A non-citizen national is a person who, although not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the U.S. They are generally persons born in lands, which are not States, but are under U.S sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration, for example, American Samoa. An individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence must submit a notarized statement, upon activation of the award, indicating possession of the alien registration receipt card (I-151 or I-551). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible for support from the NRSA.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

MARC is a year-round program. Participants are required to attend an "Introduction to Biomedical Research" workshop for four weeks at the beginning of their training. This workshop usually begins on June 1 of each year. Following a series of mini-rotations students select a research preceptor for completing a long-term research project. During the academic year MARC students are required to work 10-15 hours per week in the lab (40 hours per week during summer and winter breaks) and attend a weekly Biology 490 seminar series. Students are required to participate in an extramural research experience in the summer before their final year at CSUN. Advanced requirements include presenting research at local and national meetings, and submitting a thesis at the end of their senior year.

(Spring 2018)
MARC Student Application

Application For: MARC U*STAR

Date________________________

Personal Information

Full Name_________________________________________ Complete Date of Birth_____________________
Student I.D. No._________________________________ Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number___________
Home Address________________________________________ Street, City, State, Zip Code
Email Address__________________________________________________________
Home Telephone Number_________________________________ Message Number ________________
Cell Phone Number_________________________________ Pager Number _______________________

Citizenship/Permanent Resident
(Program participants MUST BE Citizens, Citizen Nationals or Permanent Residents)

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that I am (please initial one of the following):

_____A citizen of the United States

_____A noncitizen national of the United States (Persons born in American Samoa, certain former citizens of former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and certain children of noncitizen nationals born abroad)

_____Permanent U.S. Resident________________________ Please provide ID No.

Ethnicity

_____American Indian/Alaskan Native _____Filipino _____Other Asian

_____African/Black American _____Latino _____Vietnamese

_____Chicano (Mexican American) _____Pacific Islander Other______

Undergraduate Academic Information (you must compute your GPA)

Institution________________________________________ Major______________Minor____________________
LEVEL ____Freshman ______Sophomore ______Junior ______Senior

Total Units/Overall GPA____________ Major Science Units/GPA_________ Transfer Units/GPA_________

Expected Date of Graduation:

________________________________________________________________________

Long Term Professional Goals:

________________________________________________________________________

Spring 2016
Revised 01/21/2016
Complete the following questions:

Program Participant - Do you currently participate in or have you participated in any of the following programs? (Y/N) Include dates of participation. Provide details on separate page as needed.

- LSAMP
- BUILD
- RIMI
- MEP
- MAS
- Other federally Funded program
- RISE
- College Honors
- State or University Funded Program
- Other (explain: ____________________________)

Are you PELL eligible? _____YES______NO (If you don’t know FIND OUT. Do not leave unanswered)

Parent’s educational level: Please circle
Mother: Did not complete HS; Finished HS; Some College; BA/BS; MS/MA; Ph.D.; MD; Other Professional Degree_____

Father: Did not complete HS; Finished HS; Some College; BA/BS; MS/MA; Ph.D.; MD; Other Professional Degree_____

Are you a current member or participant in any CSUN sports activities? (Y/N)
If so please name__________________________________________

Are you a current member or participant in any CSUN music or theatre arts activities? (Y/N)
If so please name__________________________________________

Are you currently involved in any off-campus or on-campus research or volunteer activities? (Y/N)
Please describe. ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________

The MARC U-STAR program is geared to undergraduates who are interested in biomedical research and who wish to earn graduate degree (Ph.D.). We would like to know about your relevant interests and experiences. Please keep this in mind as you complete in essays below. There are five prompts please respond to each of them clearly delineate your responses to each of the prompts.

Essay Section (Please attach replies to the following to your application.)

To be completed by UNDERGRADUATE applicants for UNDERGRADUATE positions.

1. Describe your previous research experience and involvement in project(s) and what you learned from these experiences. Include dates and any publications or presentations that have or may have resulted from your work and papers under review or in press.

2. Describe any other personal attributes, abilities, or work experiences that you would like us to include in our consideration of your application.

3. If your grades do not reflect your academic potential, please explain.

4. Attach a short essay about your career objectives and why you wish to participate in this program.

5. Discuss your potential contribution to enhance the diversity of the academic or scientific workforce. Please state your basis for claiming that your particular type of diversity, or minority status, or ethnic or economic status is absent in the academic or scientific workforce.

Attach a copy of your transcripts from each of colleges that you have attended.
Letters of Recommendation
Please submit two letters of recommendation using the attached forms. Please select referees that know you academically or professionally. List the two people whom you have requested to send forms or letters to the program on your behalf. Please include their email address and phone number.

1.

2.

I understand that the MARC U*STAR program is funded for the purpose of supporting undergraduate students interested in careers in basic biomedical research. If I am seeking a medical degree or clinical degree, I will not apply. I further understand that my personal commitment to the program is: MARC U-STAR 10-15 hours per week, and 30-40 hours per week during the summer and interim months. If I cannot meet this commitment, I will notify the program office immediately. I will also notify the Program Director as soon as my career goals change from research, and I will forfeit my fellowship or support.

If accepted to the program, I will provide professional and educational updates to the program for 10 years.

I know I must be a US Citizen, Citizen National or Permanent Resident to participate in the MARC U*STAR program. Non-Citizens and individuals who are not permanent residents are not eligible to participate in either program.

Print Name __________________________________________ Date ______________________________

Signature__________________________________________________________________________

Selection is based on eligibility requirements, academic merit, potential for success in graduate (Ph.D.) programs, prior research experience and the strength of your essays. Return application to:

Dr. Maria Elena Zavala, Director MARC and RISE Programs
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8303
OFFICE (818) 677-4981
FAX (818) 677-5915

Thank you for your application. Be sure to include the following:

1. Application
2. Essays
3. College Transcript(s)
4. Report of GRE SCORES (if taken)

Please have your confidential letters of recommendation sent to address given above.
Confidential Reference Form

Applicant ___________________________________________ Last, First, Middle

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. Comment on the applicant in regard to the following:
   A. Academic Performance
   B. Professional Promise
   C. Character, Attitude, and Work Ethic
   D. Extracurricular Activities
   E. Leadership Potential
   F. Would you accept this student in your research lab?

3. Evaluate the applicant's ability to successfully complete the program and complete a competitive Ph.D. program.

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ______________________
Print Name: ___________________________________________ Position: ______________________
Address: ___________________________________________ Telephone: ________

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Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Print Name: ___________________________ Position: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ Telephone: (_____) ___________________________

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