January 11, 2018

Dear Student:

Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) is a program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the purpose of increasing the participation of underrepresented populations in biomedical research. Populations underrepresented in biomedical research, disabled students and students who are eligible to receive PELL grants are encouraged to apply. We are interested in students who are thinking about eventually going for the Ph.D. degree (that is the degree your professors have). This program is not designed for students who are definitely pursuing careers in medical or dental fields.

You must have a minimum GPA of 2.8 to meet minimum program eligibility requirements. We would very much like to consider you for a position in the program and invite you to apply. We encourage you to read the attached information and determine whether you might be interested. **The application deadline is 5:00pm February 26, 2018.** The RISE program provides financial support for research assistants at the lower division/upper division Undergraduate and Graduate levels.

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

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

We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Zavala, Ph.D.  
Director, RISE Program
Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE)

RISE Program Information

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) – National Institutes of Health (NIH) Statement of Purpose

The RISE Program (R25) seeks to enhance the research environment at minority-serving institutions. The overall goal is to increase the interest, skills, and competitiveness of students and faculty in pursuit of biomedical research careers.

RISE Program at California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

The RISE Program at CSUN is based on the successful aspects of the MARC and RISE programs. We provide curricular and co-curricular activities that will improve the educational experience if student and enhance student participation in biomedically relevant research. RISE is funded to prepare students to successfully compete for entry into Ph.D. programs in a basic biomedical research field.

Advisement

All students will receive academic advisement. Incoming students must schedule a meeting with the program coordinator, Dr. Cheryl Hogue, as soon as they have registered for their classes. Graduate students must meet on a monthly with the RISE Dr. Zavala and research advisor to assess progress toward the degree. Meetings will be scheduled at a mutually acceptable time.

Biomedical Workshop and Laboratory Research Requirements

In the first year of the program, all Undergraduate RISE students will spend five weeks during the summer in the workshop, “Biomedical Research Methods”. In subsequent years, entering freshmen, entering sophomores and juniors without previous research experience will be required to take the workshop. The workshop will meet four hours each day coordinated by Dr. Cheryl Hogue. Seniors may be exempt if that have had previous research experience, however, they will have to participate in the workshop when the topics focus on “Responsible Conduct of Scientists”.

Freshmen

Entering Freshmen will take any remedial courses required during the remainder of the summer. If they do not need to take any remedial course, they will take Math 255A. They will be asked to select three or four laboratories to complete rotations in during the summer. They will also receive exercises to hone their writing, reading, oral communication skills, and critical thinking skills exercises. Students will be encouraged to take two weeks off during the summer.

Sophomores

RISE Sophomores who have completed their research rotations will select a laboratory for their summer research experience. They will be encouraged to take either Chemistry 333 (organic) or Biology 332 (population biology) or another appropriate sophomore level course. Supplemental instruction will be provided for the students. Students may also choose to apply to summer programs that accept RISE sophomores. Students will have to decide with whom they would like work at CSUN. They will give Dr. Hogue a first and second choice. She will confer with the proposed mentor and the mentor will decide whether to accept the student or not. We expect that no mentor will have more than four RISE U students. Students then spend the rest of the summer working in the laboratory. Students will be required to submit an outline of the courses that they will take in order to complete their degrees in three years. Students are encouraged to take two weeks off during the summer for vacation.

Juniors and Seniors

Juniors and Seniors who have completed one year of work on a research project at CSUN will be expected to participate fulltime on a research project during the summer. This may be completed on campus or off campus. However, each RISE student must spend at least one summer at an extramural site either as a Rising Junior or Senior.

Graduate Students

Graduate students will be expected to successfully complete their MA/MS requirements in addition to working a minimum of 20 hours per week in the laboratory during the academic year. Graduate students are expected to work full time during the summer and interim periods.

(Spring 2018)
Research Initiative For Scientific Enhancement (RISE)

MARC/RISE Seminars

Friday Sessions: Seminar Requirements PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY
ALL RISE Undergraduate and Graduate participants are required to participate in the MARC/RISE (MR) Seminar Series and MR sponsored Biology Colloquium. These sessions take place on Fridays. The Seminar Series and Colloquium schedules vary as follows.

MARC/RISE Seminar Series (A Program Requirement for All Undergraduate STUDENT PARTICIPANTS)
Dates, time, and location included in Biology 490 Syllabi. Students will sign-up for 1 unit credit in a 490 class. The course may be taken for a grade or credit/no credit. These sessions are usually held on Fridays when there is not a MARC/RISE colloquium speaker. The sessions usually begin at 12 noon or 1:00 p.m. SEMINAR ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

Biology Colloquium (A Program Requirement for All STUDENT PARTICIPANTS)
Each semester MARC/RISE sponsors 4 - 5 colloquium guests. On the days MARC/RISE sponsors the colloquium, MARC and RISE students meet with the guest at 10:30am. (Our guest speakers often recruit students for Ph.D. programs). Eight (8) students may sign-up to go to lunch with the program director or coordinator and guest beginning at 11:45am. At 2:00pm all students are required and expected to attend the colloquium. COLLOQUIUM ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS.

Laboratory/Research Requirements
Lower Division Undergraduates are not required or expected to settle into a lab in their first semester. Students will complete two laboratory rotations of 8-16 weeks before making a final lab selection for their lower division research. All selections must be approved by Cheryl Courtney-Hogue.

Upper Division Undergraduates will select a long-term research lab based on the information gleaned from their mini-rotations held by RISE eligible research mentors, research interests, expected date of graduation, and the recommendation of the program coordinator. All selections must be approved by Cheryl Hogue and Maria Elena Zavala.

Graduate students are required to select a research laboratory. Their choice must be approved by the research mentor (training faculty) and Program Director, Maria Elena Zavala.

LABORATORY CHOICES WILL BE PROVIDED UPON NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING

SALARY PAYMENTS (Subject to change pending notification of funding)
Lower Division Undergraduate Pay $12.00 - $13.00
Upper Division Undergraduate Pay $14.00 - $15.00
Graduate Pay $18,600 Annual/$17.26/Hr

SUPPLY and Other Training Expenses (Subject to change pending notification of funding)
(these moneys cannot be used to defray the cost of GRE prep courses)
Lower Division Undergraduates $ 500
Upper Division Undergraduates $ 1,000
Graduates $ 1,300

TRAVEL ALLOTMENTS (Subject to change pending notification of funding)
Undergraduates and Graduates $ 1,100 Total Per Year Per Participant
Faculty Travel with Students $ TBD Total Per Year Per Faculty

TUITION/FEES PAYMENTS (Subject to change pending notification of funding)
Undergraduates: Program does not pay tuition or lab fees for undergraduates.
Graduates (only): Program provides partial payment for tuition and fees.
(Salary payments, supplies, and other training expenses, travel allotments and tuition/fee payments are subject to change based on level of funding.)

(Spring 2018)
RISE Student Application

Application For (please circle):
RISE Lower division RISE Upper division RISE Graduate 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
_____ African/Black American
_____ Chicano
_____ Filipino
_____ Latino
_____ Pacific Islander
_____ Other Asian
_____ Vietnamese
_____ Other

Undergraduate Academic Information (Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Please calculate all of the requested GPAs)

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 2017
Revised 01/24/2017
Graduate Applicant Enrollment Status

CSUN Application Date Applied/Date Accepted ________________________________

Graduate Program Date Applied/Date Accepted ______________ Major Research Focus ____________________________

Previous Education

Undergraduate (BA/BS) Degree ________________________________

Institution ________________________________

Major/Option ________________

Degree Conferred/Date ________________________________

Overall GPA ________ Major GPA ________ Science GPA ________

Long Term Professional

Goals: __________________________________________________________

Testing Information – Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

General (highest score) ________________________________

Date Taken/ Scores Verbal Quantitative Analytical

Subject (highest score) ________________________________

Date Taken/ Scores

ALL Students Please respond:

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 (undergraduates)? Yes ________ No ________

Are you PELL eligible (graduate applicants)? Yes ________ No ________

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 __________________________________________________________

2
Are you currently involved in any off-campus or on-campus research or volunteer activities? (Y/N)
Please describe. _______________________________________________________

The RISE program prepares undergraduates or graduates interested in biomedical research to become competitive applicants and to complete Ph.D. programs. We would like to know about your relevant interests and experiences. Please keep this in mind as you provide the following information in essays below. There are five prompts please respond to each of them individually.

Undergraduate 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). Include dates and any publications 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 these programs.
5. Discuss your potential contribution to 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 all colleges that you have attended.

Graduate Essay Section. You must have been accepted into at Graduate program at CSUN before submitting an application to this program. (Please attach replies to the following to your application.)

To be completed by applicants for GRADUATE positions.

1. Please attach your Statement of Purpose.
2. How will your involvement in this program increase/or improve participation marginalized and historically underrepresented groups in basic biomedical research?
3. Describe any personal attributes, abilities, or work experience that you would like us to include in our consideration of your application.
4. Why do want to earn an advanced degree beyond the MA or MS?
5. If your grades do not reflect your academic potential, please explain.

Attach a copy of your all transcripts all 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. Please include their email address and phone number.

1. _____________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________
I understand that the RISE program is funded to support undergraduate or graduate 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: RISE Undergraduate 10-15 hours per week, and 30-40 hours per week during the summer and interim months and RISE Graduate 20 hours per week during the calendar year. 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 pursuing a research degree (Ph.D.), and I will forfeit my fellowship or support.

If accepted into the program, I agree to provide professional and educational updates to the program for at least 10 years.

I know I must be a US Citizen, Citizen National or Permanent Resident to participate in the RISE program. Non-Citizens and individuals who are not permanent residents are not eligible to participate in the RISE 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 and/or Statement of Purpose
3. College Transcript(s) (First-Time Freshmen – submit a copy of your high school transcript)
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 group?

3. Evaluate the applicant’s ability to successfully complete the program and earn a Ph.D. in basic biomedical sciences.

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Print Name: __________________________ Position: __________________________

Address: __________________________ Telephone: (____) __________________________

Please return to: Dr. Maria Elena Zavala, Director MARC and RISE Programs
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Office (818) 677-4981, Fax (818) 677-5915
Confidential Reference Form

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   C. Character, Attitude, and Work Ethic
   D. Extracurricular Activities
   E. Leadership Potential
   F. Would you accept this student in your research group?

3. Evaluate the applicant’s ability to successfully complete the program and earn a Ph.D. in basic biomedical sciences.

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

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Applicant
________________________________________
Last, First, Middle

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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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5