

Data Science Rotations for Advancing Discovery (RoAD Trip)

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions Regarding Application & Eligibility

1. *What application materials should I prepare before applying to the RoAD Trip program?*

Biomedical scientists/Fellows:

- NIH Biographical sketch
- Letter of Reference: This letter is required from the fellow applicant's institution chair or program head.

Data Scientists/Mentors:

- NIH Biographical Sketch
- Letter of Institutional Support: This letter is required from the host institution, outlining endorsement of the data science mentor's participation in the RoAD Trip program during the proposed time frame.

For additional information regarding required application materials, please refer to the [RoAD-Trip Program Description](#) located on our webpage.

2. *I am scheduled to complete my Ph.D. studies this year, but will not have my degree at the time of the RoAD Trip. Can I still apply?*

To be considered an eligible mentor applicant, you will need to have a doctoral level degree when you apply. Fellow applicants with a doctoral level degree are highly desired, however graduate students may also apply.

3. *I am presently collaborating with a senior-level data scientist. May I request to work with them?*

We want to establish new collaborations between scientists who have not worked together previously to increase the chances of making exciting new discoveries. The application review team will assist you in finding the right mentor for you.

4. *Can international applicants apply?*

Unfortunately due to restrictions imposed on individuals with a visa status, including foreign nationals with visas residing in the US, we cannot accept applications from visa holders at this time.

*The duration for data science rotations is expected to be a minimum of 2 weeks. However, proposals for extended visits under the same funding amount are welcomed. All required documents due no later than July 1, 2019.

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5. *I see two links to apply, which should I choose?*

If you are a junior biomedical scientist who possess unique and compelling biomedical data sets and you would like to collaborate with a data scientist, use the [Junior Biomedical Science Fellow Application/Profile Form Link](#).

If you are a senior-level data scientist who possess mentoring skills, access to technology, and other resources to assist with novel data analyses, use the [Senior Data Science Mentor Application/Profile Form Link](#).

Questions Regarding Stipends

6. *After rotations, who receives a stipend?*

Fellows

Fellows will receive a \$4000 stipend after submitting required documents (original travel receipts, Travel form, RoAD Trip Project Progress Report. After the 2-week minimum RoAD Trip, all fellows must submit receipts for travel expenses as soon as possible to receive a stipend.

Mentors

Mentors will receive a \$1000 stipend after RoAD Trip projects are completed and RoAD Trip Project Progress Report has been submitted.

Note to Mentors & Fellows

Due to limitations imposed on US visa holders, as well as USC or government-affiliated individuals, they are not eligible to receive a RoAD Trip stipend, however, they are otherwise welcome to participate in any RoAD Trip projects as they see fit.

7. **I've been selected to participate as a RoAD Trip fellow. My host institution requires that I receive an immunization before I start the rotation. Will the RoAD Trip program reimburse me for these costs?**

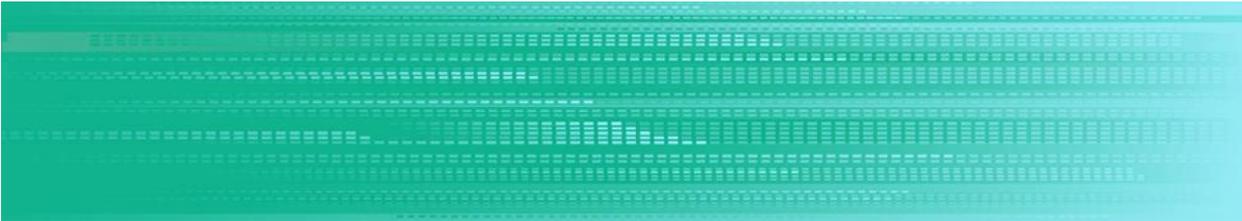
Unfortunately, the program can only reimburse for the travel portion of the RoAD Trip.

8. **Can I use my personal car to drive to my host institution for the RoAD Trip?**

Yes, you may travel to your host institution using your personal car without restrictions.

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Finalist Selection & Peer-Review Process

9. *How will the application review team determine the right mentor for me?*

Junior biomedical scientists and senior data scientists will complete separate application profiles. After a period during which such profiles will be gathered, potential fellows and mentors will be “matched” based on the fellow’s data content, needed and available resources, and experience and common fields of interest. After these “matches” have been made, fellows and mentors may decide to “like” each other. This information will allow the review team to pair fellows and mentors and continue to the next step of the application process.

10. *Once I am “matched” with a mentor, what is the next step in the application process?*

Once the proposal review team arrange compatible matches between junior biomedical fellows and senior data science mentors, prospective teams will be asked to jointly submit a Research Plan. Read more about the *Joint Data Science Research Plan* in the [RoAD Trip Program Description](#) for further information. Peer reviewers will evaluate research plans.

11. *How many projects will the application review team select for the RoAD Trip?*

This program will be highly competitive and anticipates selecting up to ten RoAD Trip projects per year.

The RoAD-Trip

12. *How long is the scientific rotation?*

The RoAD Trip program entails a minimum 2-week scientific rotation at data science research universities in the United States. The minimum 2-week scientific rotation must be completed in time to submit the project progress report by July 1, 2019.

13. *I am a senior-level data scientist. Why should I apply to this program?*

The data scientist will gain access to novel data types ripe for computational modeling, analysis, and visualization. The data scientist will make new biomedical discoveries with a junior biomedical scientist who is establishing a career in their field of expertise. The collaboration and completed research project may lead to a variety of opportunities: a presentation at a national or international conference, a new grant proposal, or a publication. In addition, selected mentors who are not affiliated with USC or federal agency will be awarded a \$1000 stipend when the data science rotation project has ended and a project progress report has been submitted.

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