

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Brigham-Massachusetts General Hospital Research in Infectious Disease and Global Engagement (BRIDGE) Summer Internship Program 2026**

### **1. What is the BRIDGE Summer Fellowship Program?**

The Divisions of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Harvard Medical School and the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), invite applicants to a 10-week (June 8 - August 14, 2026) summer fellowship program at Mass General Brigham that provides mentoring in laboratory research, epidemiologic research, or clinical research in the field of infectious diseases. Eligible applicants are college students (rising juniors - seniors) or college graduates taking a gap year (or gap years) who are intending to apply to medical school (or other postgraduate training in healthcare). Our goal is to help build bridges to careers in medicine, public health, and infectious disease research. The long-term goal of this program is to assist individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (who have historically been excluded from careers in health and medicine) in building essential skills and supportive networks for their future careers.

### **2. What do I gain from this internship?**

This internship offers hands-on experience, mentorship, and exposure to infectious disease research. You'll acquire essential skills and insights, exploring diverse projects from HIV/AIDS to global health. It also offers an opportunity to build a network of mentors with whom you can have longitudinal contact. Overall, the goal is for this program to provide a foundation for your future career in medicine (or public health, or infectious disease research) to support you in a journey towards impactful contributions in healthcare.

### **3. What are the key components of the mentored fellowship?**

The program includes experiential and didactic learning, division meetings, educational sessions (journal club, lectures, webinars), and a specific research project conducted under the supervision of a primary faculty mentors. Participants present their research at the program's conclusion to the division and establish relationships with their research mentor and with BRIDGE program mentors that are intended to be long-term, after the summer fellowship ends. Shadowing experiences in laboratories or research groups outside of the primary mentored experience may also be available.

### **4. Am I Eligible to Apply to This Program?**

You are eligible to apply if you meet all the following criteria:

- You are a college student (rising juniors - seniors) or a college graduate (from undergrad) currently taking a gap year(s).

- You are interested in pursuing a career in medicine, specifically with an interest in infectious diseases.
- **You are EITHER**  
A first-generation college student. That is, you have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf>)  
**OR**  
You meet two or more of the following criteria for coming from a disadvantaged background:
  - Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Definition: <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/>);
  - Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families (Definition: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/focus-areas/foster-care>);
  - Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>);
  - Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf>);
  - Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants (Definition: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>);
  - Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements>).
  - Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer (<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>), or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zipcodes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities in #7 can be used as an eligibility criterion.

**5. Does this program accept international students?**

No, the program does not accept international students on F-1 visa, OPT, or CPT.

**6. If I have a disability, am I still eligible?**

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria outlined in #4, you are eligible to apply.

**7. If I am enrolled in a Master's program, am I still eligible?**

No, applicants currently enrolled in a Master's program does not qualify for this program.

**8. What are the dates of the BRIDGE 2026 Summer Fellowship Program?**

The program runs for 10-weeks during the spring / summer from June 8, 2026 - August 14, 2026. Applicants are **required to complete the 10-week program in its entirety.**

**9. What is the application process?**

Students are selected based on a competitive application process. Applications are reviewed by the BRIDGE fellowship selection committee, and candidates are chosen based on their academic and research background, interest in infectious diseases, and potential contributions to the program.	
<b>Now – January 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Applicants submit their application; Apply Here: <a href="https://redcap.link/bridge">https://redcap.link/bridge</a>
<b>January 13<sup>th</sup> – Mid-February</b>	Fellowship selection committee reviews applications.
<b>Mid to Late-February</b>	Applicants will receive email notifications informing them of whether they have been selected for an interview.
<b>March</b>	Interviews will be conducted, and applicants will be required to submit a resume along with letters of recommendation or references.
<b>Early-April</b>	Applicants will be notified of the final decision.

**10. How many are selected for the program?**

Approximately 5-10 interns will be selected for the program in 2026.

**11. Will housing be provided?**

Yes, housing will be provided near BWH (likely at a local college campus, generally in a private bedroom within a shared unit and access to a kitchen) for the duration of the BRIDGE program, for individuals who do not have a local residence.

**12. Can I commute if I live in Boston or nearby?**

Yes, commuting is feasible if you can arrive on time and communicate any delays. If you have a local residence and do not need housing through the BRIDGE program, we will provide you with an additional \$500 (in addition to the stipend below) for commuting.

**13. How much is the stipend? Does it cover food expenses?**

The stipend amount will be \$5,000, intended to cover food, travel to/from Boston, local transport, and incidental expenses. Unfortunately, expenses exceeding the \$5,000 stipend cannot be covered by the program.

**14. What is the Day in the Life of an intern?**

Intern experiences vary based on individual mentors and their specific research areas. Some interns work on clinical studies and interact with clinical trial participants, while others participate in laboratory research focusing on data analysis and experiments. In some cases, interns may have the opportunity to work in both clinical and lab research. Most if not all of the internship time will be spent on-site (not virtually). We work to match interns with mentors and types of research that they are most interested in, to the extent possible. We also support interns to network, meet, and

occasionally shadow doctors and other health professionals whose work they are interested in.

Working hours generally start at 9am - 11am and end at 4pm - 6pm, 5 days a week. One half-day each week is set aside for interns to gather and participate in a weekly lecture series focused on various aspects of infectious diseases and research conduct, as well as topics related to pursuing careers in medicine (with time for discussion and Q&A).

## **15. How do I apply?**

Fill out the RedCap application via the provided external URL (<https://redcap.partners.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NCH8W8TLMX4RL7EA>) before the deadline on January 12, 2026.

**If you have any additional questions or concerns not addressed here, please feel free to contact us at [BRIDGE@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:BRIDGE@bwh.harvard.edu). We appreciate your interest in the BRIDGE Summer Fellowship Program and look forward to your potential participation!**