

CPRIT Applicant FAQs

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Researchers must have a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, MD, DrPH, DO) by the start date and must work in a UTHealth lab or research environment or have one in mind. Note: We are looking for postdocs whose time remaining in a postdoc position will provide an opportunity to interject learning from the summer and other novel ideas into the dissertation.

Q: What are fellows' responsibilities?

A: All fellows must enroll in a 2-CH seminar in the Fall and Spring which will continue exercises to encourage the use of the tools for innovative thinking and transdisciplinary collaboration. These activities will also emphasize dissertation progress, publication, and preparation for a career in cancer prevention research. Fellows are also required to enroll in the Postdoctoral Certificate Training Program at UTHealth if they are based on the Houston campus. Fellows present their research annually to our Executive Committee, illustrating the innovative approaches they've applied and reporting on their progress. All predocs have a primary mentor and a program mentor. Expectations of primary and program mentors for predocs and postdocs can be found here.

Q: Will a different mentor be assigned?

A: We respect the mentor-adviser relationship that is already in place. The program mentor we will assign will be based on a conversation with you and your mentor and offer new perspectives (see the Mentor roles document).

Q: Is there a location requirement for the preceptor and primary mentors?

A: The primary mentors can be located at another campus—but this would require a strong justification. A co-mentor could be elsewhere, and the “mentor provocateur” would be selected after acceptance and could be elsewhere.

Q: For the application, what writing samples should I submit?

A: The best writing samples are first-authored published works. Beyond that, a completed and well-revised work can be used, including class assignments. Two first-authored abstracts submitted for conferences can count as one writing sample.

Q: For the application, may I submit unofficial transcripts?

A: Unofficial transcripts will suffice during the review of your application. If accepted to the fellowship, official transcripts will be required before you can be appointed. If you believe your official transcript will not arrive before the deadline, we suggest submitting unofficial transcripts with your application.

Request official transcripts from your university as soon as possible. After selection, a delay in the receipt of official transcripts may postpone your appointment. This could cause you to not receive the benefits listed, such as in-state tuition and/or your tuition and fees paid for by the fellowship.

Q: I attended a university outside of the US. May I submit my transcript from this university?

A: If you have attended a foreign university, your transcript needs to have been evaluated by an outside service and translated into English. If your application to GSBS, SBMI, or SPH contains this transcript, you can request an official version be forwarded to us. We will consider them as official transcripts sent through the UHealth application process and forwarded to us directly.

Q: Do letters of recommendation need to be submitted directly by the recommender?

A: Although we will accept letters sent directly by you, this practice is strongly discouraged. Similar to submitting unofficial transcripts, if you are selected for the fellowship, we will need to receive the letter of recommendation directly from the recommender (submitted electronically using this link <https://redcap.link/cpritolordoc>) before you are officially appointed for the fellowship. After selection, a delay in the receipt of letters of recommendation submitted directly by the recommender may postpone your appointment. This could cause you to not receive the benefits listed, such as in-state tuition and/or your tuition and fees paid for by the fellowship.

Q: Do applications and all supplemental application materials need to be sent electronically?

A: This is the preferred route. Submit the application and all supplemental materials electronically as noted in the [application materials link](#). Please follow the directions listed on the link regarding the naming convention of files. Official transcripts may either be emailed to CPRITFellowships@uth.tmc.edu (if your institution participates in this practice) or sent directly to:

Attn: Boomadevi Narendran
University Center Tower
7000 Fannin Street UCT 2510J
Houston, TX 77030

Q: I was selected for an interview. How should I prepare?

A: Interviews are conducted by groups from the Executive Committee, as well as current fellows. Expect broad questions, e.g., what is an innovation (in any field) that you admire and why? If you received a research grant, what would you do? What is the most innovative thing that you have done—in any aspect of your life? Why have you applied for this particular training program? ...etc. It would also be worthwhile figuring out how to state your project and career goals succinctly in case you are asked to restate them.

Some resources to review include Dr. Ness' [TEDtalk](#) and [Dr. Ness' online course in innovative thinking](#). This Massive Open-Online Course (MOOC) is hosted on the edX platform and is worthwhile to review since this fellowship is based on her method of innovative thinking. All applicants invited for an interview will have an orientation session with Dr. Mullen prior to the interview.