

Susan Hagstrum and Robert Bruininks
Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Brain Health
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Dr. Susan A. Hagstrum, Ph.D. and Dr. Robert Bruininks, Ph.D. have made a generous gift to the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Foundation to support graduate students studying any area of research that advances medical or behavioral health under the umbrella of the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain (MIDB). The goal is to encourage the research development of promising scholars and fund applicants who will go on to become independent investigators. The awardee will carry the title of “The Susan Hagstrum and Robert Bruininks Fellow in Child and Adolescent Brain Health.”

We anticipate awarding 1 proposal for a 1 year duration at a maximum of \$25,300, which includes matching funds through the *University of Minnesota 21st Century Graduate School Match* program. While the intent is to provide (partial) support for the student’s stipend, up to 20% will be allowed for non-salary expenses. The student’s primary mentor will be responsible for the remainder of the student’s stipend and non-salary support.

Eligibility: Students are eligible to be considered for this award if they are: i) attending the University of Minnesota; ii) enrolled full-time seeking a PhD graduate degree in any discipline; iii) in their 2nd or 3rd year of study at the time of application (to provide support for research in their 3rd or 4th year of study); iii) conducting research related to the work of MIDB including but not limited to clinical and basic science research and policy-related initiatives; iv) show exceptional potential in their field of study. Preference will be given to students undertaking interdisciplinary research and/or engaging stakeholders of MIDB (e.g., clinic or community members). Each project must have a primary mentor. A primary mentor can serve on only one application for this mechanism in each year. Previous student recipients of this award are not eligible to apply for a second award from this mechanism in future years.

Application Requirements:

A. **Letter of Intent.** Please submit a letter of intent (LOI) by **April 24, 2026**. This should include your name, your home department, your year of graduate study, the tentative title of your project, the names and affiliations of your research mentors, and a brief synopsis of your proposal’s rationale, specific aims, approach, and potential impact. [Do not exceed 1 page]

The letter of intent allows us to gauge how many applications we will receive and the alignment of the proposal with the theme of the call and the mission of MIDB. A subcommittee of the Research Advisory Council including the MIDB CSO will evaluate all LOIs and determine which students will be approved to submit a full application.

B. **Full proposal.** If your LOI is approved, you will be notified and instructed to submit a full proposal. Full proposals should be understandable to a general scientific audience and avoid the use of discipline-specific jargon and acronyms. Please submit the following by **June 24, 2026** as one single integrated PDF document:

1. Research proposal (limited to 3 single-spaced pages; 0.5 inch margins; 11 pt Arial or Times New Roman font); include your study aims, background, methods, and data analytic plan.
2. A summary of your proposal that can be understood by a lay audience (½ page or less).
3. A personal narrative describing what you see as your unique contribution to neurobehavioral

development in the future, your career goals, and how this award will help you get there (½ page).

4. Up to date NIH Biosketch for candidate and mentor(s).
5. Current transcript (this can be an unofficial transcript).
6. Letter of endorsement from primary mentor (1 page).
7. Detailed budget and budget justification with timeline. Funds are intended to provide (partial) support for the student's stipend, and up to 20% will be allowed for support of research activities.
8. Please include information regarding the project's IRB/IACUC status.

FULL PROPOSAL:

The deadline for submission of full proposals is **June 24, 2026**. An electronic version of the proposal (as a single PDF) should be submitted to: **Gabrielle Katterjohn at midbresearch@umn.edu**. Student PIs will be notified by **September 1, 2026** if proposals are funded.

REVIEW:

- Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on the i) quality/potential of the candidate, ii) strength of mentor(s), iii) quality of the science proposed (innovation, significance, approach), and iv) fit with the [mission of MIDB](#). Reviewers will be Research Advisory Committee (RAC)/MIDB members and drawn from the larger research community at the University of Minnesota/Medical School as expertise requires. Proposals with a mean score >5 (1=highest score, 9=lowest score, using NIH scoring anchors) will not be considered for funding.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- A final report detailing what was accomplished during the award period and budget summary is due within 60 days of completion of this award. Any unused funds will be recovered by MIDB on behalf of the Foundation. The final report will consist of documentation of academic products resulting from this research (manuscripts in preparation, submitted or published; data presented at meetings; and results for each specific aim); any new proposals submitted from this work/plans for future grant submission, and a ½ page final summary of the project and future directions of this research in lay language. All materials must be submitted electronically to **Gabrielle Katterjohn at midbresearch@umn.edu**.