

2027 BSP Application Webinar FAQ

Q: For the summer, how would the student's room and board be covered?

A: Typically the institution will cover the room/board for summer.

Q: Can the mentor research funds be used as a stipend for mentors?

A: No, but it may be used for travel, research supplies, publication other mentoring activities related to supporting the scholar.

Q: Can the mentor funds be divided if student is co-mentored?

A: Scholars will have one designated primary mentor.

Q: Are finalists from last year who were not selected eligible to submit again this year?

A: Yes, if your institution was not awarded last year, you remain eligible for submitting to the upcoming program.

Q: Do you provide feedback on prior year's applications if an institution were to reapply?

A: The Foundation does not provide additional feedback on an unsuccessful application.

Q: How about are past awardees from more than 10 years ago handled in the application process?

A: They are considered new applicants. If you are unsure of your institution's award history, please email bsp@beckman-foundation.org and we can provide that information.

Q: Where can we find the Institutional Data Sheet?

A: The Institutional Data Sheet template (and all the other templates) is within the application portal. You can download it after the application opens and you start an application. The information you will need to collect is available on our website under 'Application Instructions'. There is also a downloadable PDF of the instructions under 'Helpful Guides'

Q: Do you have any guidance on the size of the mentor pool for the 6 scholars? How many would be desirable?

A: We require a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 mentors. There is no desired amount recommended by the Foundation, however when choosing mentors consider the PAUs and where Scholars would be selected from and if those students would be well matched with the proposed mentors.

Q: Will lecturers be eligible mentors?

A: Mentors must be full time faculty with lab.

Q: May PI of the Beckman Scholars Program also serve as faculty mentor?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you share details on post award management of funds? What financial information will need to be provided. For example, if we underspend in mentor research funds, do those funds get returned to you?

A: The underspend may need to be returned to the Foundation depending on the amount. Please email bsp@beckman-foundation.org to get additional information.

Q: Does research need to be a graduation requirement for the students or can it be optional or non-credit?

A: Research does not need to be a graduation requirement.

Q: Can you give more information about how institutions typically apply, through the dean's office or department chair, or office of advancement?

A: This is up to the institution and the Foundation does not have a preference.

Q: I heard you say that returning institutions are reviewed separately from new applicants, but is there preference given to one type of application over the other?

A: No, there is no preference.

Q: An announcement I saw about the program stated that the evaluation of diversity criteria has changed this year. Can you say a bit more about what has changed? In an era where a commitment to diversity, equity, and access has been de-emphasized at the federal level, what does this mean (if anything) for Beckman Scholars?

A: The language changed for our 2026 program which was just awarded. The language was rewritten to avoid conflicts with state laws.

Q: Please could you break down the costs per scholar over the 3 year period. So, for instance, is it 2 scholars per year for a total of 6 scholars and 6 individual mentors? Is the supplies and travel per student?

A: Yes to each of those questions

26k per scholar

\$18,200 stipend to scholar; 2800 travel/supplies to scholar; 4800 mentor research fund; \$200 institutional contact

Q: Could you go over one more time the interaction of the Beckman award with financial aid student may already be receiving?

A: A Beckman Scholars Award may not decrease a scholar's financial aid package.

Q: Can faculty from the medical school or graduate school serve as mentors? These faculty may not be tenure track but are well funded and run robust undergraduate research programs.

A: Yes, junior and senior faculty are encouraged to serve as mentors. They must be full time faculty members with a lab.

Q: Can you say anything about how important current external funding is for mentors? Wondering about weighing more established faculty vs. newer junior faculty who may not have an established record of funding yet, especially in the current funding environment.

A: While external funding is important, the Foundation encourages that both junior and establish faculty be put forth as mentors. Junior faculty provide wonderful opportunities for scholars and are encouraged.

Q: Mechanically, are the funds required to go to/through a 501c3?

A: Yes. The University of College Foundation can submit the application for benefit of the University

Q: At my institution, all awards must go through Financial Aid- we have not been able to circumvent financial aid.

A: The Foundation can provide language on this and it is part of the award terms which must be signed at time of application.