

# The USC/CHLA Summer Oncology Research Fellowship (SORF) Program

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Keck Medicine of USC



<http://chla.org/fellowship/summer-oncology-research-fellowship>

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## Program Description

Our NIH-supported Summer Oncology Research Fellowship (SORF) Program for US medical students is a full time 10-12 week program in the summer between first and second year of medical school. It is designed for students who are considering a biomedical career that involves cancer research. This research fellowship takes place at two sites: **Children's Hospital Los Angeles** and the **Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Keck School of Medicine of USC**.

SORF immerses medical students in cutting-edge research experiences within a **Team Science** framework in oncology and related fields. Students are matched with mentoring teams according to interests and research experience. Research projects are in pediatric, adolescent or adult oncology, in fields of clinical, translational, or laboratory research and/or new frontiers in bioinformatics, biomedical engineering, precision medicine, population-based research, survivorship and other oncology-related fields. SORFites work on their research project under experienced faculty mentors, visit centers of emerging sciences, participate in social activities, interact with faculty, trainees and cancer survivors, and engage in a dynamic interactive curriculum of selected topics in oncology, career development, research skills, research communication and responsible conduct of research. Students further enhance their skills through scientific reports, posters and oral presentations. SORFites are encouraged to present their work at local, national and international conferences and to compile their data into a manuscript for publication. As a testament to the success of the program, many SORFites have gone on to successful academic medical careers involving cancer research and related disciplines.



Students apply online. SORF's executive committee invites the top 5% - 10% applicants to participate in SORF's full time summer program. Invited students indicate their top project/mentor choices from a list provided and are paired with one. They then connect with their mentor, read background literature, conceptualize and submit a research proposal prior to the start of the program, and are ready for their project upon arrival. Applicants with solid laboratory research background and aspirations are given special attention. Students from underrepresented minorities are encouraged to apply.

Program is on site in Los Angeles. However, depending upon pandemic-related conditions, the 2022 program may require a Hybrid or Remote Research format instead.

Students receive up to \$600/week for subsistence while in the summer program. Travel and housing assistance are available for qualifying students. Students may also be supported for part time additional research beyond the summer, on site or remote, to complete their project.

## To Apply

Online application and guidelines are at the SORF program's website: <http://chla.org/fellowship/summer-oncology-research-fellowship>

**Applications for Summer 2022 are accepted 11/1/2021 to 1/10/2022.** Invitations will be sent in February/March.

**EARLY ADMISSION application deadline is 12/13/2021** and is associated with early commitment.

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