



Next Generation Leaders

Emerging leaders in bioscience

The Next Generation Leaders (NGL) program at the Allen Institute recognizes emerging early career researchers in bioscience. The program is designed to foster community, exchange of ideas, innovation, and collaboration to make a broad, transformational impact on the future of science at the Allen Institute and beyond.

NGLs have a passion for collaborative research to tackle complex problems in bioscience. They bring expertise and offer fresh perspectives to enhance the mission-driven scientific research propelled by big, team, and open science principles at the Allen Institute.

Next Generation Leaders complete a three-year term and have opportunities to interface with ongoing research in brain science, cell science, immunology, synthetic biology, and data science; engage with team science, big science, and open science practices; and ultimately act as ambassadors for the Allen Institute and open science resources.

Seventy Next Generation Leaders from research institutions across North America and beyond have been recognized by the Allen Institute since 2014. Visit [Next Generation Leaders](#) to learn more and apply.

The application window for the Next Generation Leaders program opens on February 17, 2026, and closes on March 31, 2026.

Program Details:

Up to eight Next Generation Leaders (NGLs) will be appointed each year, with up to 24 total active members. Each NGL will serve a three-year term with the opportunity to:

Attend at least one event at the Allen Institute (travel expenses covered)

Share their research with the Allen Institute community

Network with Allen Institute scientists and current and former NGLs at events

Eligibility

Applicants from the United States and international academic and nonacademic research institutions are welcome to apply.

Applicants must:

Hold a PhD and/or MD in a relevant field

Be employed as an Assistant Professor or equivalent, beginning on or after February 1, 2024, OR currently be in a late-stage post-doctoral position actively seeking faculty roles

Have a passion for collaborative research to understand the complex problems facing bioscience research today



Application Instructions

Fill out the application and upload materials via Submittable (NGL online application platform)

Interested participants must submit the following materials to apply:

- A *curriculum vitae* (CV)
- A short overview of your research program and future research directions
- Your two most significant publications and a short overview of each that describes the science and its impact for non-specialists
- A cover letter (1 page) that explains: (1) how your research can align with Allen Institute science programs, (2) any experience that you have with big, team, and open science practices, (3) your leadership philosophy (topics may include mentorship, motivation/purpose, community impact, adaptability and/or culture), and (4) your motivation to join our NGL program

Applications will undergo three rounds of review. Finalists in the third round will be invited to present their research in a virtual interview.

Application Window

Applications will open on February 17, 2026

The application window will close on March 31, 2026, at 11:59pm PDT

Applications will undergo three rounds of review, with final decisions being made in August 2026

Applicants will be informed of their application decisions via email

Please note: if selected for the 2026 NGL cohort, you will be invited to Seattle for an event in early September.

For additional questions and inquiries, email nextgen@alleninstitute.org

Please be aware that due to the large number of applicants and inquiries, we are unable to respond to individual requests about the status of your application. The Allen Institute main phone number will not be routed to the Next Generation Leaders program team.



FAQs

Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers with up to two years in an Assistant Professor role, or in any academic or industry equivalent role, and late-stage post-doctoral fellows are encouraged to apply.

For the purposes of the NGL program, early career researchers are defined as researchers who are about to transition—or have recently moved—to fully independent positions as investigators, faculty members, clinician scientists, or scientific team leaders in industry, and who are focused on establishing themselves as the experts in their chosen research areas. Group submissions will not be considered.

Who is not eligible to apply?

Candidates who do not fit the above definition of an early career researcher as described by the NGL program should refrain from applying. Ineligible candidates include academic or industry positions equivalent to Associate Professors, Full Professors, or any tenured faculty.

Is the opportunity open to candidates outside of the United States?

Yes. Applicants from outside the United States are welcome to apply.

Does it cost money to submit an NGL application?

No. There is no cost to submit an NGL application.

What contact information is collected on the application?

The application collects the candidate's name and email address. Status updates will be communicated via the email address provided in the application. Be sure to check spam or junk folders for communications generated by the system.

Will I receive confirmation that my application was received?

Yes. Our application platform (Submittable) will generate an automated email response confirming receipt of your application. Check spam or junk folders for communications generated by the system.

How do I check my application status?

Applicants can log into their Submittable account using their email address to view the ongoing status of their application and communications generated by the system.

Do I need to submit Letters of Recommendation?

No, we are no longer collecting letters of recommendation as part of the application process.

What are the CV guidelines?

We request that your CV be in English on an 8 ½ x 11-inch page, using Arial, 11-point font, single-spacing, and with one-inch margins on the top, bottom, left, and right.



What is the review process like?

Applications are reviewed by Allen Institute scientists. Applications that go through the entire process can expect to be independently reviewed by at least four different reviewers.

The review process occurs in three stages:

Stage one: Review of scientific research and future research directions, grouped by research area. 50 applicants will progress to the next stage

Stage two: Holistic review of entire application. 12 applicants will progress to the next stage

Stage three: Virtual presentations and interviews with a review panel. Up to eight candidates will be chosen

When will I be contacted for an interview?

Only finalists will be invited for a virtual interview and will be contacted by an NGL team member. The estimated timeframe for interview requests will be from July 6, 2026, through July 31, 2026.

What is the virtual interview process like?

Candidates should expect to give a short research presentation followed by a Q&A and an interview with a panel comprised of members of the NGL program committee and Allen Institute scientists.

Does the Allen Institute cover any expenses?

The Allen Institute will cover travel and accommodation expenses for active and appointed NGLs to attend selected events.

Is this a paid position at the Allen Institute?

No. This is not a paid position at the Allen Institute. There are therefore no employment benefits or visa assistance provided by the role.

Is the NGL program a certification program?

No. The NGL program is not a certification program. This is an opportunity to engage with the Allen Institute as members of the external scientific community.