

2025-2028 HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Academy Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- be legally employed full-time in the US or Canada¹
- teach high school or introductory undergraduate life/environmental science students as the majority of your job responsibilities
- have teaching experience of no less than one of the following:
 - 5 years at the high school level and hold a current license to teach
 - 3 years at the undergraduate level
 - 5 years at both levels combined
- intend to continue working in science education
- be comfortable teaching and learning in English

Key Dates and Links

Eligibility: March 12-May 7, 2024

Application submission due: September 12, 2024

Notification of status: December 2, 2024

Finalist additional materials due: February 10, 2025

Finalist interviews: February 17-March 17, 2025

Notification of invitees: March 31, 2025

Acceptance due: April 14, 2025

Start date: May 1, 2025

First in-person cohort meeting: July 7-10, 2025

More information is available at: www.biointeractive.org/professional-development/ambassador-academy

Access the application at: pathway.hhmi.org

If you have questions or require this application in an accessible format in compliance with the National Rehabilitation Act/Section 508, please contact us at biointeractiveacademy@hhmi.org or 301-215-8609 so that we may best accommodate your needs.

¹Successful applicants outside the United States are expected to obtain all necessary visa documentation to attend the U.S.-based events identified in this application. Successful applicants are not employees or agents of HHMI and are not entitled to participate in any of HHMI's employee benefit plans, including pension, 403(b), profit sharing, retirement, deferred compensation, welfare, insurance, disability, bonus, vacation pay, severance pay and other similar plans, programs and agreements.

COMPONENTS OF THE ELIGIBILITY SECTION

- Eligibility Questions
- Optional Survey for Eligible Applicants

COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION

- Contact Information
- Acknowledgement of Conditions
- Personal Statement Video
- Teaching Philosophy
- Teaching Experience
- Collaboration Statement
- Education
- Leadership Statement
- Professional Learning & Development (optional)

COMPONENTS OF THE FINALIST REVIEW

Applicants selected as finalists will be asked to submit additional materials and participate in a video interview with HHMI BioInteractive representatives.

Additional Materials:

- A descriptive narrative of a lesson (written or video)
- Two professional references
- A signed form from the applicant's administrator acknowledging their support of the applicant's participation
- Video interview

DETAILED COMPONENTS OF THE ELIGIBILITY SECTION

Eligibility Questions

Are you legally employed full-time in the US or Canada?

- Yes, No

Do you teach high school or introductory undergraduate life/environmental science students as the majority of your job responsibilities?

- Yes, No
- If yes, please select one:
 - High School Educator
 - Undergraduate Educator

If yes, I have the following teaching experience: (select one)

- 5+ years as a high school educator and hold a current license to teach
- 3+ years as an undergraduate educator
- A combined 5 years teaching experience at both levels

Do you intend to continue working in science education?

- Yes, No

Are you comfortable learning and teaching in English?

- Yes, No

Optional Survey for Eligible Applicants

Please note that the following questions are OPTIONAL. These data will be used to characterize the applicant pool and help HHMI plan outreach to prospective applicants during the Eligibility window. Submission of this information is voluntary and will not affect your eligibility. We appreciate your input.

I acknowledge that responses to the questions on this page are not required.

Yes

Teaching Context

Select from the drop-down lists to share specific details about your teaching role. Options will ask about your current school setting and student population.

Total Years Teaching Experience

- No response
- <5, 5-10, 11-15, 16-20, 20+

School Setting

- No response
- Rural, Urban, Suburban

School Location

- 50 States and Canada

Type of School

- No response
- High School, Higher Education

If High School is selected

Is your school (select all that apply):

- No response
- Public
- Charter
- Independent or Parochial
- Selective or Magnet School
- BIE-operated or Tribally-controlled School
- Designated Title 1
- Alternative Setting
- Other (please describe) _____

Is your student population characterized by (select all that apply):

- No response
- >10% of students have IEPs
- >10% of students are Multilingual Learners (MLL)
- >50% of students identify as students of color
- Other (please describe)

Number of students in your High School

- No response
- <500, 501-1500, 1501-3000, 3000+

If Higher Education is selected

Is your school (Select all that apply):

- No response
- Public
- Private (yes/no)
 - If yes, (choose one)
 - For-profit
 - Not-for-profit
- 2-year college
- 4-year Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI)
- 4-year with graduate programs
- R1
- Minority-Serving Institution (yes/no)
 - If yes (select all that apply)
 - Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)
 - Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
 - Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)
 - Tribal College
 - Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs)
 - Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)
 - Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHs)
 - Other (please describe)

Number of students in your Higher Education school

- No response
- <2000, 2001-5000, 5001-10,000, 10,001-20,000, 20,000+

BioInteractive Communication

This information will be helpful to us in planning outreach to prospective applicants for future HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador cohorts. We appreciate your input.

How Did You Initially Hear About This Opportunity? (select all that apply)

- No response
- HHMI news or website
- Your school, school district or academic institution
- Mention in a BioInteractive workshop or at a conference booth
- Mailed postcard
- BioInteractive Newsletter
- Social media (specify Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, other)
- Personal communication from a mentor or colleague
- Personal communication from a current HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador
- Communication from a professional society or alumni network
- Another science or science education organization
- Other (please describe)

Demographic Information

It is voluntary and optional for applicants to provide the demographic information requested in this section. Demographic information will not be considered in the review or selection process. HHMI may use demographic data after selection to evaluate the reach and outcome of its programs or for other internal purposes. HHMI may also make aggregated demographic information public in a way that does not permit the identification of any individual applicants.

Is your ethnicity Hispanic/Latinx?

- No response,
- Yes, No

Please select the group(s) with which you most closely personally identify. (select all that apply)

- No response
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Caucasian or White
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other (allow them to self-describe)

Which most closely describes your gender identity?

- No response
- Woman
- Man
- Transgender Woman
- Transgender Man
- Non-Binary
- Agender/I don't identify with any gender
- Gender not listed

DETAILED COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION

Contact Information

Provide your permanent contact information. This will be used for all communication throughout the application process. If a change is necessary after your application is submitted, please contact HHMI staff at

biointeractiveacademy@hhmi.org

- First Name
- Middle Initial (optional)
- Last Name
- Preferred Name (if different than first name) (optional)
- Preferred Pronouns (optional)
- Email Address
- Institution Location (Address)
 - Country (United States, Canada)
 - City/Province
 - State
 - Postal Code

Program Confirmation

The following conditions are requirements for participation in the 2025-2028 HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Academy.

- I understand that Academy activity will cycle through periods of intense work and periods of minimal work. I am expected to maintain a full and sustained commitment to cohort activities during the Academy.
 - Specifically, I commit to participating in the following:
 - 3 in-person National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) Annual Conferences during the month of November (October 30-November 2, 2025 in St. Louis MO)
 - 4 in-person annual weeklong summer meetings during the month of July (July 7-10, 2025 at HHMI Headquarters in Chevy Chase MD)
 - Facilitating on behalf of HHMI BioInteractive at least once during the Academy which may entail a state, regional, or national conference in addition to those listed above
 - **5-15 hours monthly** outside of the above-mentioned for professional learning (example: virtual meetings, journal readings, reflection prompts)
 - Incorporating certain BioInteractive resources of your choice into your classroom practice several times throughout the Academy. If you are unfamiliar with BioInteractive resources, please familiarize yourself here: <https://www.biointeractive.org/classroom-resources>
- If selected as a finalist, I will be able to obtain a signed form from my administrator acknowledging their support of my participation. For high school educators, this administrator can be your principal, assistant principal, or other equivalent building administrator. For undergraduate educators, this can be your department chair, dean, provost, or president.
- I understand that successful applicants are not are not employees or agents of HHMI and are not entitled to participate in any of HHMI's employee benefit plans, including pension, 403(b), profit sharing, retirement, deferred compensation, welfare, insurance, disability, bonus, vacation pay, severance pay and other similar plans, programs and agreements.
- I understand that successful applicants outside the United States are expected to obtain all necessary visa documentation to attend the U.S.-based events identified in this application.

Personal Statement Video

Upload a video (3–5 minutes) of yourself explaining why you want to join the HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Academy. Before creating your video, you may want to familiarize yourself with the information provided here: <http://www.biointeractive.org/professional-development/ambassador-academy>

Your video should demonstrate:

- Your understanding of the work of HHMI BioInteractive Ambassadors and the Academy
- Your personal values and professional goals, indicating how they are aligned to the work of HHMI BioInteractive Ambassadors and the Academy
- The ways that you, your colleagues, and the broader science education community will each benefit from your participation in the Academy

Teaching Philosophy

Write a self-reflective narrative (750 words or less) that conveys your beliefs about teaching and learning and what it means to foster an inclusive learning environment and center equity in your classroom. Your narrative should include:

- A clear articulation of your beliefs about teaching and learning
- Any key resources that you use to ground your thinking and continuous learning

- Specific examples of what you and your students do in your classroom, explaining the rationale for why you chose these practices and how they contribute to student learning, equity, and inclusion
- Any lived experiences that have contributed to your teaching philosophy

Teaching Experience

Document your teaching experience, including any student teaching, teaching assistantships (TA), or learning assistantships (LA). For each experience, include the following:

- Type of experience
- Time period
- School/Institution
- Course(s) taught
- Brief description of students

Collaboration Statement

Write a statement (250 words or less) that describes your strengths as a collaborator. To do this, we suggest that you talk to someone with whom you have collaborated. This could be a colleague, family member, neighbor, or someone else you have worked with to accomplish a shared goal. Ask them to describe your strengths as a collaborator. Your statement should include:

- A description of the collaboration and its goals
- Your strengths as described by your collaborator
- The potential ways your strengths as a collaborator will benefit the Academy cohort

Education and Training

Document your educational and research training (if applicable). For each educational or training experience, select an option from the dropdown list and then provide the information requested.

- Type of training (select one)
 - Undergraduate (BA, BS, or equivalent)
 - Graduate (MA, MAT, MS, EdD, PhD, or equivalent)
 - Postdoctoral following PhD, or other doctoral-level graduate program
 - Other (specify)
- Degree awarded (if applicable)
- Institution
- Department/Program/Major (if applicable)

Leadership Statement

Write a statement (250 words or less) that describes a current or past experience in your personal or professional life where you displayed leadership either formally or informally. Your statement should include:

- A description of the leadership experience
- Your approach to leadership during that experience
- The impact your experience and/or approach has had or could have on your work as a science educator

Professional Learning & Development

If applicable, list up to five professional development courses, certifications, workshops, or other programs you have completed (250 words or less). Choose those experiences that have had the greatest impact on your teaching and/or career development. For each, please include the name, brief description, time period, and provider of the professional learning.

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS FOR FINALISTS

Teaching Practice

Upload one of the following:

- 1) a detailed written lesson plan
- 2) a written narrative; or
- 3) a video narrative

of one classroom lesson (approx. 50 minutes) that you have taught with students. The lesson should illustrate your teaching philosophy in practice and demonstrate:

- Your depth of content knowledge, and include relevant learning objectives, potential misconceptions, and how you address each with students
- Your ability to employ appropriate and effective instructional methods to engage all students in an inclusive learning environment that centers equity
- Your assessment of student learning
- (optional) Your strategic use of a BioInteractive resource. If you are selected as an Academy member, you will be asked to incorporate BioInteractive resources of your choice into your classroom practice. If BioInteractive resources are new to you, you can familiarize yourself with them here:

<https://www.biointeractive.org/classroom-resources>

If you choose option 1 or 2, provide the lesson plan or narrative either in the space provided here or upload a PDF document. If you choose option 3, upload a video recorded on a smartphone or camera.

Professional References

Upload two letters of support from colleagues or collaborators who can speak to your potential as an HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador.

Administrator Support

You must have the support of an administrator to participate. The supporting administrator must have institutional authority to approve your full participation in the 3-year Academy, which may include time away from work. For high school educators, this administrator must be your principal, assistant principal, or other equivalent building administrator. For undergraduate educators, this must be your department chair, dean, provost, or president.

Scheduling and Completion of a Video Interview