



ÉXITO! FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training is led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, thanks to a National Cancer Institute grant (2R25CA134301-06), with support from the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, *Redes En Acción* and the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Visit us at <http://www.exitotraining.org/>

ÉXITO! PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is *Éxito!* Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training?

A training program for master's-level students and master's-trained health professionals consisting of an annual five-day summer institute in San Antonio, Texas.

2. What is the purpose of *Éxito!*?

Éxito! aims to encourage minority master's-level students and professionals to pursue a doctoral degree and a career in Latino cancer health disparities research.

3. So it's for those who know they want to get a doctorate & study cancer?

No, not exclusively! *Éxito!* is designed to introduce individuals to the opportunities in a career in Latino cancer health disparities research. For individuals already interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and/or a career in cancer research, *Éxito!* will provide you with the tools needed to make the next step.

4. But I'm really not interested in cancer. Is this still for me?

Yes. Many people think of microscopes and lab coats when they think of cancer research, but virtually any interest one may have in public health is represented in cancer control research. The cancer health disparities research fields include: the study of disease trends and etiology in populations; research on how to change behavior for health promotion, including health communication; environmental epidemiology; health economics; policy research and advocacy; health psychology; and many more public health topics. In particular, there is a great deal of cancer health disparities research that focuses on underserved populations, including how to conduct valid research across cultures and identifying and eliminating disease disparities.

5. What is unique about *Éxito!*?

Éxito! offers an annual Summer institute in San Antonio, Texas. The five-day Summer institute features Latino researchers and faculty members who share their research and experiences in the field of health disparities and cancer control research. Participants also receive tools, resources and advice on how to apply, get accepted and complete a doctoral program.

6. When was *Éxito!* established?

Éxito! was established in 2010 by the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio thanks to funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The program is modeled after a similar training program, the Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The MTPCCR began in 1999 and continues today.

ÉXITO! APPLICATION - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Where can I find the *Éxito!* Summer Institute application?

The *Éxito!* program application can be found on our *Éxito!* website:
<http://www.exitotraining.org/apply>.

2. Can I mail in my application or components of my application?

No, the application must be submitted using our electronic application. All supporting documents—transcripts, letters of recommendation, CV's, etc.—must be uploaded as part of your electronic application.

3. When is the *Éxito!* program application due?

The program application is due Monday, March 2, 2020 by 11:59 P.M. (CST).

4. Who is eligible to apply for the *Éxito!* program?

To be eligible for the *Éxito!* program, you must be:

- A minority Hispanic/Latino* student in a master's level health program** or master's trained professional,
- Be in good academic standing (minimum "B" average)
- Have strong verbal, written, interpersonal, and organizational skills

** We define "minority Hispanic/Latino" as those communities who are underrepresented and experience an excess or unknown burden in the field of health disparities and cancer control research.*

*** Students must have completed their first semester of a master's program by the start of the Summer institute.*

5. I am not an American citizen, am I eligible to apply?

Due to the limited number of spaces for the *Éxito!* program, preference will be given to citizens of the United States. Women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

6. I am not an American citizen and I want to apply for the program. Is there any legal and/or financial information that I need to know?

Yes, if accepted into the program, *Éxito!* will cover your airfare, lodging and transportation cost. To learn more about international student payments please visit the following website: <http://www.uthscsa.edu/ois/>.

7. I am currently applying for doctoral programs but have not been accepted. Am I still eligible to apply for the *Éxito!* program?

Yes, as long as you have not been accepted into a doctoral program at the time of applying you are eligible to apply. ***Current doctoral students (including MD's) or those already accepted into a doctoral program are not eligible to apply.***

8. My master's degree is not in public health, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, master's degrees in other disciplines are accepted. This program is designed for master's-level students or master's trained professionals interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and career in cancer research.

9. What if I cannot get two letters of recommendation?

Applicants are required to provide two letters of recommendation. If unable to obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty, one letter is acceptable if the recommender can comment on the applicants' qualifications for the *Éxito!* program and the applicants' academic and research potential.

10. When will applicants be notified of acceptance into the *Éxito!* program?

Applicants will be notified in late March 2020.

11. If I am accepted into the *Éxito!* program will I be responsible for travel expenses to San Antonio, Texas?

No, if you are accepted into the *Éxito!* program you will receive free registration, travel, lodging, breakfast and lunch during the five-day summer institute in San Antonio, Texas.

12. What if I cannot attend the five-day summer institute in San Antonio, Texas?

The summer institute is mandatory for those accepted into the *Éxito!* program. Once the participant agrees to attend the summer institute and submits a signed contract, travel and lodging arrangements will be made and paid for by the *Éxito!* program. The participant will be held responsible for reimbursing the *Éxito!* program all associated travel and lodging cost if they do not attend the summer institute.

13. What if an emergency arises while I am attending the summer institute and I have to leave early?

We understand emergencies may arise. Participants will be held responsible for covering all cost associated with flight changes and other costs previously paid for by *Éxito!*.

14. I have an MD, am I eligible to apply?

- a. MDs are ineligible for both the Summer Institute and internship applications.

ÉXITO! INTERNSHIP - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS- Interns

1. Where can I find the *Éxito!* Internship application?

The *Éxito!* internship application can be found on our *Éxito!* website:
<http://www.exitotraining.org/apply>.

2. How many internships will be awarded?

Éxito! will support up to ten internships in 2020.

3. Are the internships competitive?

Yes, *Éxito!* is looking for highly motivated master's-level and/or master's-level health professionals interested in earning a doctoral degree and pursuing a career in Latino cancer health disparities research.

4. Who can apply for an *Éxito!* internship?

Anyone who applies for the *Éxito!* program is eligible to apply for an *Éxito!* internship, including *Éxito!* alumni who have not previously completed an internship.

Internships will only be awarded to applicants accepted into the *Éxito!* Program and attend the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

Individuals are ineligible if:

- They have completed or are currently enrolled in a doctoral program.
- They have already been accepted into a doctoral program.

5. How does one apply for an internship?

Potential interns must complete the internship *Éxito!* application. All documents must be received by **MONDAY, March 2, 2020**.

6. What are the deadlines for applying for an internship?

The internship deadline is the same as the application deadline. All documents must be received by **MONDAY, March 2, 2020**.

7. How long is the *Éxito!* internship?

The *Éxito!* internships are six months long; internships will take place between June 2020 and Nov. 30, 2020.

8. When will I be notified if I am accepted for an internship?

Applicants will be notified in late March 2020. Internships will only be awarded to applicants accepted into the *Éxito!* program and who attend and complete the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas or *Éxito!* Alumni.

9. What will I be required to do in an internship?

Potential interns will submit an Internship Work Plan along with their application. Interns will be responsible for completing the work proposed and adhering to the internship roles and responsibilities outlined in the *Éxito!* internship application.

10. How many hours must I complete for the *Éxito!* internship?

Interns must complete 360 hours of work between June 2020 and Nov. 1, 2020.

11. Will I receive financial support from *Éxito!* during the internship appointment?

Yes, those selected for an internship will receive a \$3,250 honorarium. Mentors will receive \$750. Honorariums will only be awarded provided the intern has successfully completed the 360 hours and adhered to the roles and responsibilities outlined in Roles and Responsibility of the *Éxito!* internship application.

12. Will travel expenses or internship related cost be reimbursed by *Éxito!*?

Applicants selected to participate in the *Éxito!* Summer Institute will receive travel, lodging, and two meals per day at no expense. Internship related cost will not be reimbursed by the *Éxito!* program. ***Éxito!* will only provide interns with a \$3,250 honorarium at the conclusion of the internship. Mentors will receive a \$750 honorarium. Only one mentor will receive an honorarium for the internship.**

13. What if I don't complete the number of hours required for the internship?

You must complete the required number of hours (360) between June 2020 and Nov.30, 2020. If the internship is not completed, the intern and mentor will not receive their honorarium. In the event of an emergency where the applicant cannot complete the internship, proper documentation will be requested and will be reviewed for partial stipend compensation.

14. Why do I need to complete responsible conduct of research (RCR) and Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) training?

Éxito! is funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). NCI requires all trainees to be exposed to RCR and CITI training. This training is to fulfill this requirement.

15. Will I need to report any information back to *Éxito!*?

Yes, you will be responsible for submitting electronic monthly progress reports to the *Éxito!* staff as well as a final report. You will also be responsible for completing a pre- and post- internship survey and present your findings at an *Éxito!* Intern Webinar Series.

16. Does my mentor have to be in the same city? What if they are located in another state?

It is preferred that the mentor be located in the same city. Having a local mentor may provide you with a more successful internship and a stronger application.

17. Do the internships have to be in the US?

Yes, internships must be in the US.

18. Are any sites for the internship ineligible?

No internships sites are ineligible. Internships can be done in health departments, universities, community center, etc.

19. I have an MD, am I eligible to apply?

- a. MDs are ineligible for both the internship and Summer Institute applications

20. Should all funds of the budget section on the internship application be spent on internship activities?

The budget should outline what you are planning to do with the stipend you receive at the end of your internship. The budget can be short and straightforward. You may specify if it will all go to your labors performed during your internship or if you are planning on using it for materials, data collection, travel to conferences, computer software, materials, etc.

ÉXITO! INTERNSHIP - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS- Mentors

1. What will my responsibilities as an *Éxito!* mentor be?

As a mentor, you will be responsible for:

- Completing a mentor webinar training.
- Helping your potential intern create an Internship Work Plan.
- Meeting with your potential intern at minimum of once a week to discuss internship progress.
- Providing your intern with opportunities to build upon their research and interpersonal skills.
- Evaluating your intern's performance by completing the Mentor Feedback Survey at the conclusion of the internship.

2. Will I receive an honorarium or stipend for serving as a mentor?

Yes, mentors will receive a \$750 honorarium at the conclusion of the internship and after submission of the intern's final report. Honorariums will only be awarded provided the intern has successfully completed the 360 hours and adhered to the roles and responsibilities outlined in PART B of the *Éxito!* application. Only one mentor will receive an honorarium for the internship.

3. Will I be responsible for paying for work conducted by an intern?

No, mentors are not required to pay interns. Interns will receive a \$3,250 honorarium from *Éxito!* at the conclusion of their internship.

4. How long is the internship?

Interns must complete a 360-hour internship between June 2020 and Nov. 30, 2020.