

Bridge to the Doctorate: Where to Apply for 2015

Without a doubt, I attribute a critical part of my success as a doctoral student to [Dr. Karen Singmaster](#) and the [San Jose State University Louis Stokes of Minority Participation \(SJSU LSAMP\)](#) program. The program exposed me and many others to essential information and resources that I use consistently in my current studies. A benefit of being an [LSAMP](#) student at any university is the ability to apply to the [National Science Foundation LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate](#). I was afforded the opportunity to attend and receive the Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) at the [California State University Los Angeles \(CSULA\)](#) in 2008 – 2010. The amazing faculty who ran the BD program at CSULA, [Dr. Margaret Jefferson](#), [Dr. Carlos Gutierrez](#), and Dr. Robles, **assisted me with preparing for the rigors of a Ph.D program**. The BD program also enabled me to conduct my Masters thesis research in the [Brain-Body Dynamics Lab](#) at the [University of Southern California](#) under [Francisco Valero-Cuevas](#). The BD program provides the following incentives for two years:

- Full tuition & Fees
- **\$30,000 stipend a year**
- Funding for research supplies and travel
- Mentoring
- Workshops & Seminars

To be eligible for the program you will need to have the following:

- Participated in an LSAMP program at your undergraduate institution
- Bachelor's degree in a STEM field
- **Have at least 3.0 GPA**
- Admitted into the respective university the program is

being held that year

If you are a STEM major who is **very interested in pursuing a Ph.D**, graduating in the Spring or Summer 2015, and would like all of the aforementioned perks of BD, **I suggest you apply ASAP!** If you are currently not part of the LSAMP program at your undergraduate institution, I suggest you google your institutions name with LSAMP, for example, "uf lsamp", and contact the representative at your University. If you are slightly under a 3.0 GPA, I recommend you still contact the representative of the program you are interested in and express your interest. **It would not hurt to have your current LSAMP advisor contact the representative at the program you are interested in also.**

One important thing about the BD program that I feel is often missed every year, is publicity of the institutions hosting the program. The program rotates to different universities every year, and it is often hard to find the applications. Below is a comprehensive list (with links) to **all of the institutions hosting the program for Fall 2015:**

- [Binghamton University](#)
- [California State University Los Angeles](#) – Deadline – May 15, 2015
- [Delaware State University](#) – Deadline – March 15, 2015
- [Florida International University](#)
- [Jackson State University](#)
- [North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University](#)
- [Vanderbilt University](#) – Deadline – February 22, 2015
- [University of California Irvine](#) – Deadline – March 15, 2015
- [University of Illinois at Chicago](#)
- [University of Maryland Baltimore County](#) – Deadline – May 1, 2015
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

Even if a deadline has passed, I recommend still contacting

the people listed on the respective websites. The university may still be accepting applications. Apply ASAP, time is running out!