



Iniciativa Proxima

YALE PROXIMA MENTORING PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES - 2023



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THE INITIATIVE

With the support of Yale University, Iniciativa Proxima leverages the power of science and education as a driver of social change. Although the Iniciativa Proxima was launched in 2020, the desire to contribute to science and education manifested years ago with the creation of the *'Seminars in Biomedical Sciences'*. This is a scientific event aiming to connect talented young Brazilian scientists with outstanding researchers from around the world.

Years later, we then created a formal mentoring program -- the Yale-Proxima Mentoring Program -- to support Brazilian students in developing the necessary skills to pursue a career in biological and biomedical sciences. Through these programs, Iniciativa Proxima seeks to provide young Brazilians with world-class training and create an environment that fosters scientific discussions and high-quality science in Brazil.

By supporting and training young talented scientists, we seek to reduce opportunity and achievement gaps in Brazil and foster the next generation of science leaders for the betterment of our societies and local communities.

PART I

YPMP Overview

Features

Yale-Proxima is a mentoring program for young Brazilians in the pursuit of knowledge and excellence in the field of biological and biomedical sciences. We are looking for aspiring scientists who are not only committed to their own professional success but who also seek to understand how their empowerment can promote long-lasting changes in their communities.

This 10-month (March-December) virtual mentoring program will introduce students to critical practices, skills and strategies necessary to become leaders in their research field.

ELIGIBILITY

A maximum of 25 scholars and 25 associates will be selected. Participation is limited to students who:

- demonstrate past or future interest in biological and biomedical sciences (it doesn't matter if you come from a non-biological/biomedical science field, if you are interested in pursuing a career in these fields in the future, you are more than welcome to apply);
- are currently undergraduate (from 5th semester onwards) or master students or have recently earned a master's degree;
- have not yet enrolled in a PhD program and do not hold a Doctorate degree;
- be a Brazilian citizen or someone who lives in Brazil. Brazilians who live abroad are eligible to apply, but priority will be given to those who reside in the Brazilian territory;
 - Note: We strongly encourage our students to apply for training programs in other positions in Brazil and abroad. If one gets approved and needs to leave Brazil at any time during the tenure of the program, it is one's responsibility to inform the team as soon as possible.
- Research experience is not mandatory, but it is a plus, even if in a different field.

APPLICATION

Registration is free and will open on September 14th and will close on November 15th at 11:59pm BRT. The registration form can be accessed on the following link: https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3yxvaCrFMNMBX8

Applications that: are incomplete; do not follow the guidelines below; are submitted after the deadline will not be considered. The following documents are requested for the application:

1) A short bio in video format (2 minutes maximum, in English).

Tell us something about yourself that you would like to share with us. Copy and paste link for a private upload to YouTube. NOTE: the quality of the video will not be evaluated, therefore, it does not need to be professional but good enough for us to see you. We strongly recommend it to be recorded in a quiet place and in landscape mode! Please, be mindful of the time!

2) Share an example of something that you have been part of, created, led, or joined that you consider unique in *your* life.

Tell us why you think it is unique and how it might have impacted your life and/or your community (250 words in Portuguese);

APPLICATION

3) A brief essay describing your previous experience with science and education and how participating in this program would impact your career (300 words in English);

4) A brief description of your current and future interests (50 words in English);

5) Curriculum vitae (in Portuguese OR in English);

- [Here](#) you can download an example of CV to guide you (it is not mandatory to follow this example).

6) Official academic transcript(s) (in Portuguese OR in English). Please create a single pdf if you have more than one academic transcript.

- Example: undergraduate students must provide only one transcript. Master's students must provide both undergraduate and Master's transcripts. For application purposes only, we will accept online/non-official versions of the transcripts. However, if selected for the program, students will be requested to submit the official version of each document.

BENEFITS

Selected scholars will:

- Participate in interactive sessions on career development, effective communication and networking;
- Receive exclusive guidance on how to choose and apply to graduate school;
- Explore different career paths;
- Become part of a community of peers, role models and world leaders in biological and biomedical sciences;
- Receive recognition as a lifelong Fellow.

Selected Associates will:

- Participate in bi-weekly virtual workshops;
- Become part of a community of peers, role models and world leaders in biological and biomedical sciences;
- Receive education and professional developmental resources also shared with the scholars.

EXPECTATIONS

Selected scholars and associates will be expected to engage in discussions and have an attendance of at least 85% in the workshops offered throughout the period of the program.

For selected scholars ONLY:

Selected participants will be expected to attend 100% of all mentoring and career development sessions.

Certificates will ONLY be issued if the expectations previously described are met.

PART II

HOW THE YPMP WILL WORK

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program will start in March/2023 and end in December/2023. It will be divided into three main components:

Workshops

(Wed, 6:30-8:00 pm BRT, every 2 weeks)



Meetings with invited speakers on relevant topics for the students' personal and professional development.

Mentorship

(Sat, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm BRT, every 6 weeks)



Individual and group sessions with Brazilian PhD students at Yale University.

Career Development

(Schedule to be announced)



Individual and group meetings focused on practical strategies for personal development and career planning.

- Workshops

The workshops will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (Brasília time). There will be 1 to 2 meetings per month, from March to December. Some topics include (which can change throughout the program):



2023 Workshop Tentative* List:

Why did you pursue Science?
The importance of a good mentor
Applying to graduate school
How to moderate a round-table
Science Communication
Scholarships and opportunities
How to prepare your personal statement
Enhancing your presentations skills
Successful stories in non-academic careers
Making a discovery
Creative Thinking in Arts and Sciences
Mental Health/Imposter Syndrome

**This list is subjected to changes.*

- **Mentoring sessions**

The discussion groups are designed to address the diversity and specific needs of Brazilian mentees. Mentors are Brazilian PhD students who are far enough along in their academic journey that they can provide valuable insights and advice.

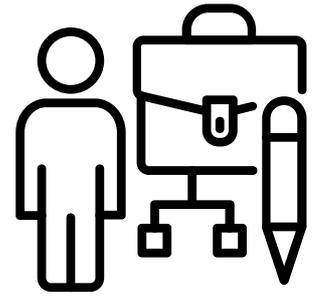


Pairings will be made at the beginning of the academic year based on a survey of participants' expectations and interests. Each mentor will be paired with a maximum of 5 mentees.

Throughout the 10-month program, the mentoring component will include four scheduled meetings on Saturdays (from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Brasília time) as well as a weekend Q&A session. Scheduled meetings are an opportunity for a mentor to gather together with all of their mentees in a small group setting. Typical agendas for scheduled meetings might include journal clubs with invited authors, tips for graduate school applications, discussion about challenges, or other topics relevant to Brazilian mentees.

- **Career Development**

The scholars will receive guidance from an experienced career development specialist over the course of the program.



Development sessions will be offered to help our mentees on how to better plan their careers. There will be individual and group sessions.

Some goals of this program are:

- Individual profile analysis and skills mapping;
- Setting individual goals and strategies;
- Structuring a career and an individual plan to act;
- Behavior analysis and improvements;
- Collective activities for shared learning.

PART III

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFO

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



contato@iniciativa-proxima.org



www.iniciativa-proxima.org



[@iniciativaproxima](https://www.instagram.com/iniciativaproxima)



[@iniproxima](https://twitter.com/iniproxima)



[@yalecapessbs](https://twitter.com/yalecapessbs)



[@YaleBrazil](https://twitter.com/YaleBrazil)

*Inspiring, teaching, and empowering
the next generation of Brazilian scientists*



Iniciativa Proxima

An initiative born at Yale University