PiNBAC
Harvard Program in Neuroscience
Post-Baccalaureate Program

Tari Tan, Bob Datta, and Chloe Denelsbeck
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Meet the Team

Bob Datta
Co-Director

Tari Tan
Co-Director

Chloe Denelsbeck
Program Coordinator
Our plan for today!

Agenda

Program Overview
Eligibility
Mentoring
Professional Development
Application
Student Panel
Questions
Program Goal

Develop a diverse neuroscience workforce by providing a training program to prepare trainees to successfully apply to (and be successful in) PhD programs.
What is PiNBAC?

Two Year Paid

for College Graduates planning to pursue a PhD

The program primarily consists of laboratory research in a Harvard neuroscience lab with additional professional development and mentorship
You will be hired and paid as a Research Assistant in a lab and will participate in the additional components of the PiNBAC program as a Harvard employee.

This is not a coursework-based program. You will not receive a Harvard transcript or degree, though you can attend/audit courses beyond the PiNBAC curriculum.

How does it work?
Who is eligible?

Our program requires that applicants:

- Plan to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience (not MD or MD/PhD)
- Be documented US Citizens and/or Permanent Residents
- Have completed (or will complete) their bachelor’s at a non-research intensive school
- Not hold any graduate level degrees (Master’s Degree or PhD)
- Demonstrate interest in neuroscience research (for example, through coursework or previous research experience)
- Have completed their bachelor’s no more than three years before the start of the program
- We especially encourage applications from: Students belonging to populations underrepresented in neuroscience, as defined by the NIH

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to Chloe at chloe_denelsbeck@hms.harvard.edu if you have any questions or are unsure of your eligibility!
What is a research intensive institution?

- Primarily, this applies to schools that have a PhD program in Neuroscience or a related biomedical field.
- This will also usually correspond to being designated as an R1 or R2 or described as “High doctoral research” or “Very high doctoral research” institution according to the Carnegie Classification of Institution of Higher Education.
Alternatives to PiNBAC

For those who graduated from a research intensive institution and/or hold an advanced degree:

- **Research Assistant positions**
  - The “Internal” application mechanism – through this mechanism you secure a two-year RA position on your own in a Harvard or Harvard-affiliated Neuro lab and then apply to PiNBAC
- The [Harvard Research Scholar Initiative](#) which has a natural sciences track
- The [Kempner Institute’s](#) new post-baccalaureate program

For international students:

- **Research Assistant positions**
  - The “Internal” application mechanism – through this mechanism you secure a two-year RA position on your own in a Harvard or Harvard-affiliated Neuro lab and then apply to PiNBAC
What does a competitive applicant look like?

Some attributes we are particularly looking for include...

- Self-driven learners
- Demonstrated interest in Neuroscience
- Commitment to PiNBAC mission
- Demonstrated grit and perseverance
- Desire to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience
- Academic and career goals are aligned with PiNBAC programming
- Curiosity and drive to study Neuroscience
Mentorship & Professional Development

Monthly Professional Development Workshops

- Opportunities to meet other RAs at Harvard
- Topics Include: Talking about your science, letters of recommendation, writing about your science, graduate school interviews, the neuroscience PhD landscape, careers in neuroscience, and choosing a PhD program that is right for you.

Weekly PiNBAC Course

- The weekly course covers a wide range of topics from experience in the lab, science identity, professional development, journal club, and more.

Mentorship Opportunities

- When PiNBAC trainees join a lab, their PI takes on the role of research mentor.
- Once in the lab, trainees are often assigned an “in-lab” mentor who will provide guidance and support in the lab.
- In addition, each PiNBAC trainee is assigned a mentoring pod, comprised of a faculty mentor and graduate student mentor.
Past Students
Have matriculated to their top Neuroscience PhD Programs

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
NYU
UT Southwestern Medical Center
UCSF
Yale University of California San Francisco
Ongoing Programming

Department Events
- Happy Hour, Pizza Talks
- Lunch Day, Tea Time
- Listening Lab, Department Retreat, and more!

Monthly Lunches
- With PiNBAC Directors

PiN Nocturnal Journal Club
- With PiNBAC Directors and learning reflections

Weekly Seminars/Events
- Harvard neuroscience community (e.g., events with Underrepresented Scholars in Neuroscience (USN))
Application Components

Unofficial transcripts from undergraduate institutions

Completion of bachelors by July 2024 and no earlier than July 2021

At least one Letter of Recommendation

- Up to three letters will be accepted
- Once you submit your PiNBAC application, your letter writer will receive an email with the secure portal to upload the letter

Resume/CV

Three Short Essays

500 words maximum and the essay prompts are listed on the website
Key Dates

- **Dec 1, 2023**: Application Opens
- **March 1, 2024**: Application Due
- **March 15, 2024**: Letters of Recommendation Due
- **May 2024**: Decisions Sent
- **July 2024**: Program Begins
Apply
www.pinbac.org/apply

Apps close March 1, 2024 at 11:59PM
Sign Up for the PiNBAC Email List

Stay up to date on information sessions and application information
Thank you!

Don’t hesitate to reach out with additional questions!

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Meet Current Trainees

Daria Paulis
Navarro Lab

Kayla Anthis
Datta Lab