

Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Graduate Research Fellowship

This application is for the Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Graduate Research Fellowship. The awardee of a Just-Julian Fellowship works with a faculty member or a research scientist in support of research projects. Just-Julian fellowships are highly competitive. All applicants must ensure they satisfy any additional departmental application requirements associated with the fellowship.

Purpose of the Award

The Just-Julian Fellowship is designed to give Ph.D. students an opportunity to gain experience in their respective academic field by (a) completing research that supports a faculty member or research scientist's research project or (b) c o m p l e t i n g r e s e a r c h r e l a t e d t o their own project under the close guidance of a faculty member or research scientist. In both cases, Ph.D. students are appointed to the title *Just-Julian Fellows* and are selected based on academic achievement and research interest/potential. Just-Julian fellows conduct research under the direction and supervision of a faculty member or research scientist who has an active research agenda. The award is intended to assist in preparing graduate students to undertake their own future research endeavor(s) and to provide graduate students with the experience of applying for external funding. The Just-Julian fellowship is unique from assistantships in the Graduate School in that the fellowship does not involve teaching at any point during the fellowship period.

Eligibility

Applicants must be Ph.D. students in good academic standing (without any previous or pending academic infractions) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. The following requirements must also be met:

- Applicants must be enrolled full-time (or in candidacy and enrolled for at least 1 credit hour) at the time of application;
- Applicants must demonstrate that they are making good progress toward the degree; and
- Applicants must receive an endorsement by a faculty or research scientist actively involved in research in the applicant's field.

Criteria

Eligible students must complete an application, which includes the following items:

- A completed application cover form;
- A 300-word description of the project;
- A short statement that answers the following three questions:
 - What do you hope to accomplish academically and professionally through this Just-Julian Assistantship?

- What new knowledge will be produced as a result of this assistantship?
- What pre-doctoral, dissertation, or postdoctoral funding opportunities will you apply for by the end of the fellowship period?
- A *curriculum vitae* or resume that reflects your academic profile and research experience and other relevant experience;
- A copy of your unofficial HU transcript;
- A letter of endorsement from your faculty or research scientist sponsor; and
- *Curriculum vitae* of the faculty or research scientist sponsor.

Note: For projects that support the faculty or research scientist's research projects, the letter of endorsement should be accompanied by a statement that outlines (a) the overall scope of the research and the students' role, (b) the academic and research supervision and experience the student will receive; (c) the type of support the student will receive related to applying for external funding.

Deadline

Applications must be submitted to GraduateSchool@howard.edu as a **single PDF file** by Tuesday January 20, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. The subject line should be your first/last name (Student ID) – Just Julian Fellowship Application (e.g. **Nia Jones (@12343209) – Just-Julian Fellowship Application**). Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered. There will be no exceptions.

A Just-Julian Fellowship is a one-time award. Students who are awarded this fellowship are not automatically awarded assistantship support from their programs or from the Graduate School in subsequent years, though Bouchet, Douglass, and McNair scholars can apply for renewal to those assistantships after having served as a Just-Julian fellow. In all cases, students must demonstrate that they have applied for external support (that is minimally \$24K) when applying for a subsequent year graduate research assistantship support.

Just-Julian Graduate Research Fellowship Cover Page

Name:

Student ID:

Local Address:

Howard E-mail:

Phone Number:

Program of Study:

When Do You Enter This Program:

GPA:

Are You in Candidacy:

Expected Candidacy Date or Date of Candidacy Approval:

By signing below, you verify that the information in the application is accurate and original and has not been generated by AI.

Student Name Printed:

Student Signature:

Faculty Name Printed:

Faculty Signature:

Ernest Everett Just (1883-1941) was a pioneering African-American biologist, academic and science writer. Just graduated magna cum laude in biology in 1907 from Dartmouth College and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He accepted a position at Howard University, eventually being appointed Professor in the biology department in 1912. While at Howard, Just helped to found Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. After Howard, he worked for many years at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. In 1916, he earned a doctorate in zoology from the University of Chicago. Unable to find work at any major American University, Just moved to Europe. From 1920 to 1931, he was a Julius Rosenwald Fellow in Biology of the National Research Council. Just's primary legacy is his recognition of the fundamental role of the cell surface in the development of organisms. In his work within marine biology, cytology and parthenogenesis, he advocated the study of whole cells under normal conditions, rather than simply breaking them apart in a laboratory setting. Just pioneered many areas in physiology of development, including fertilization, experimental parthenogenesis, hydration, cell division, dehydration in living cells and ultraviolet carcinogenic radiation effects on cells. Getting little recognition in America, Just was one of the first African Americans to receive international recognition as a scientist.

Percy Lavon Julian (1899-1975) was a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs such as cortisone, steroids and birth control pills. In 1923, he became the first African American to earn a master's degree from Harvard University, but he was refused admission to its doctoral program. From 1927-31, Julian was appointed to associate professor and served as chair of the chemistry department. In 1931, he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Vienna and was appointed to full professorship at Howard. Depauw University, Julian's alma mater for his bachelor's degree, awarded him a research fellowship during which he became an expert in synthesis. Despite his impressive accomplishments, Julian continued to face discrimination in academia, so he moved to the world of business. His discoveries included new uses of chemicals found in soybeans and processes for making artificial hormones and synthetic cortisone. In 1953, he established Julian Laboratories to produce synthetic steroids which pharmaceutical companies used to make drugs. He has more than 100 patents to his name and is widely recognized as an innovator who helped to make a range of medicines more affordable. For his contributions to humanity, Julian received 18 honorary degrees and more than a dozen civic and scientific awards; he was the second African American selected to the National Academy of Sciences and the first chemist.

Sources:

www.biology.howard.edu/home.html

BlackPast.org: An Online Reference Guide to African American History

www.biography.com: Percy Julian

NOVA: Who was Percy Julian