



BRITE Scholars Program

www.smu.edu/dedman/factsheets/brite.asp
www2.utsouthwestern.edu/gradschool

SMU Advising Center
108 Clements Hall
214-768-2291
smu.edu/dedman/advise

BRITE -- Biomedical Researchers In Training Experience -- For students majoring in Biology, Biochemistry, or Chemistry and planning **research careers** in biomedicine.

Through collaboration between Dedman College at SMU and University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center, students may apply for admission to SMU and simultaneously for acceptance to a Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences at the UT-Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, contingent upon continued satisfactory performance in the Program's curriculum and laboratory research experiences.

The Program includes two or three summers of paid research experience in laboratories at SMU and/or UT-Southwestern. BRITE Scholars have been involved in the following research projects:

- Mapping Roberts Syndrome ("pseudo-thalidomide") to its chromosome utilizing DNA sequencing
- Characterizing cytokine production in RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
- Studying autoimmune disease, specifically diabetes
- Study of a gene regulating development of higher organisms
- Study of an enzyme associated with energy production in all organisms
- Synthesizing chemical compounds, and methods of synthesis for "linkers" for advanced materials

BRITE holds lectures and discussions on both campuses. Recent lectures have been on bioterrorism, regulation of gene expression in the nervous system, epidemiology of Hepatitis B, cloning, gene expression and evolution in animals, the future of genetics, and harnessing dendritic cells to manage autoimmunity.

The BRITE Program is for students majoring in Dedman College, pursuing the B.S. degree in Biology, Biochemistry, or Chemistry. BRITE Scholars complete the B.S. degree at SMU and then the Ph.D. degree at UT-Southwestern's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. (The program does not track toward a clinical M.D. program.) BRITE Scholars take specific advanced courses designated for the program. On graduation from SMU, students can be already enrolled at UT-Southwestern, though they are free to pursue post-graduate education elsewhere. The B.S. degree is a four-year track. There may also be developed a fast-track option that would allow students to overlap their first year of Ph.D. studies with the fourth year of the B.S. studies.

Rockwell Fund Inc. has established an endowment at SMU to provide BRITE scholarship support.

BRITE Scholars must:

- Apply and be admitted to the BRITE Program;
- Complete Introductory Chemistry and Introductory Biology in the first year;
- Pursue the BRITE curriculum, including designated advanced courses;
- Complete the SMU B.S. degree in Biology, Biochemistry, or Chemistry;
- Maintain a 3.30 minimum SMU GPA;
- Maintain a 3.30 minimum GPA in science coursework;
- Complete at least two BRITE summer research internships (three are available) following the first, sophomore and junior years.

To apply:

1. Submit the regular SMU admission application (or Common App.) before January 15.
2. Send a separate letter discussing your interest and requesting consideration for the BRITE Program, and a letter from a science teacher or research mentor discussing your experience, to:

Dr. Karen de Olivares
BRITE Program, Dedman College
SMU Box 750272
Dallas, Texas 75275-0272