



Emerging Caribbean Scientists Programs

DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEGREES

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Associate's - typically completed in 2 years.

AA (Associate of Arts)

AAS (Associate of Applied Science)

AS (Associate of Science)

Bachelor's – typically completed in four years. Financial aid and scholarships are available, both merit and need based.

BA (Bachelor of Arts)

BS (Bachelor of Science)

GRADUATE DEGREES

Master's – Typically completed in 2-4 years and requires completion of a Bachelor's degree. Requires you to pay tuition. Funding may be available through assistantships, fellowships, or financial aid.

MA (Master of Arts)

MS (Master of Science)

MBA (Master of Business Administration)

MPH (Master of Public Health)

Doctoral – Time of completion and funding varies greatly between different types of degrees. See below for more info.

MD (Doctor of Medicine) – A 4 year degree for a medical doctor which is not funded and requires tuition. It requires additional training after completion in order to practice medicine (i.e., residency). Provides training in the practice of medicine rather than in how research is conducted. Admission is highly competitive. People with MD degrees have the title "Doctor" and move on to become physicians to treat patients.

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) – PhD programs are usually completely funded (i.e., tuition waived plus a salary). Includes training in conducting research in a specific discipline that varies in length of time depending on how quickly one can complete a research project (typically 5 years). People with a PhD are also called "Doctor." Admission to PhD programs is competitive and usually require a GPA over 3.0 and undergraduate research experience. PhD level scientists are qualified to design their own research programs and run their own labs in industry, the federal government or at universities. PhDs can do biomedical research but cannot treat patients unless they are working with an MD.

MD/PhD – This combined degree takes 7-8 years. Program pays for tuition and a salary for both degrees. It is extremely competitive. Requires GPA above 3.6 and strong research experience as an undergraduate. Training in both medicine and research allows people with this degree to run their own labs and see patients.

Others:

Ed.D. (Doctor of Education), Ph.D./ED (combined degree), JD (Doctor of Law or Juris Doctor), Ph.D./JD (combined degree)