

Summer Student Research Fellowship Program

Designed for medical students who already have a chosen mentor and project

Objectives

The objectives of the Summer Student Research Fellowship Program at the Rutgers, RBHS-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School are to provide a valuable experience for highly motivated and talented medical students to participate in a defined research project; to acquaint students with scientific methodology; to enhance their analytic and laboratory skills, as well as their presentation and writing skills. The program provides an atmosphere that encourages and facilitates student interactions with a diverse group of established investigators and clinicians. The rationale for the program is that exposure to a superior research environment will ultimately result in better and more able physicians. It also opens the possibility for them to consider pursuing biomedical, clinical and/or translational research as physician-scientists dedicated to enhancing healthcare. Under the guidance of faculty, students conduct intensive short-term (8-week) research projects in selected areas of basic, translational and clinical investigation. Students will attend a core curriculum consisting of weekly lectures on broad topics in medical research and career advice. They will complete a poster describing their research to be presented at a research forum at the conclusion of the summer program. After successful completion of the program, students will receive a certificate of accomplishment. This summer research experience can serve as the basis for medical students to develop their required Independent Project.

Eligibility

The Summer Student Research Fellowship Program is available to medical students in their first and second years at RWJMS. The pool of potential applicants is comprised of RWJMS medical students between their first and second, or second and third year of medical school.

Finding a Faculty Sponsor/Mentor

Students are encouraged to directly approach the faculty whose research may be of interest to them. Faculty sponsors must be members of the RWJMS or Rutgers University faculty. This may include adjunct or part-time faculty members. Students who are looking at different options for the summer should make the faculty that they approach aware of this upfront.

Rules and Criteria

Quality of the research experience

Research projects should be well planned and should be structured in eight-week segments. A student should be making an intellectual contribution to the design or development of the research project and should be carrying out much of the work. A project that requires more than two weeks of reading or library research period is not appropriate for this program, nor is a retrospective review of patient charts.

Quality of the application

The student should write the application after thorough consultation with the sponsor. It should include a summary of the background for the proposal, a statement of the hypothesis that the student is testing, specific aims of the research, a summary of methods, a description of how the student will analyze the data generated, and a conclusion which details expected results and possible future directions for the research. Also required are references from the sponsor's experience and/or literature, a letter of support from the sponsor, a print-out of the student's unofficial transcripts from the medical school and the student's CV. In addition, the application must include a clear description of the student's role in the project, indicating to the committee specifically how the student will be spending his/her time on the project during the eight weeks. All documents should be typed, not hand-written.

Faculty Sponsor

Faculty sponsors must be members of the RWJMS or Rutgers University faculty. This may include adjunct or part-time faculty members. Faculty sponsors should not sign for the same project with competing students. It is the responsibility of the faculty member, not the committee, to select the student with whom he/she wants to work. Faculty sponsors may sign for different projects with different students.

Summer Student Research Fellowship Program
Designed for medical students who already have a chosen mentor and project

Compliance

It is the responsibility of the faculty sponsor to obtain appropriate Rutgers approval for research involving human subjects, radioisotopes, recombinant DNA, animals, and/or biohazards **prior to the start of the proposed research.** **Proof of IRB and/or IACUC approval must be provided to the Office of Research before the start of the research.** Fellowship monies will only be awarded **after** documentation of Rutgers approval is provided.

Awards

Fellowships are awarded for a period of eight weeks during the summer months. Summer fellowships carry a stipend of \$2,000. A faculty committee will review the applications. Fellowships will usually be awarded in April. The awards are for the student's use only. No funds are available for equipment or supplies. **NOTE: Students who apply for a fellowship but are not selected for fellowship support due to limited funds will automatically be accepted in Summer Research Program as part of the Research Training Option.** Students who acquire their own external fellowship support are welcome to participate in Summer Research Program activities.

Poster Presentations

At the completion of the summer program, the students are expected to give a poster presentation of their work to an audience comprised of the summer program coordinators, their sponsor, and the other students engaged in the program during the Research Symposium coordinated by the Office of Research. Other members of the student's laboratories are also invited to attend. *This event is mandatory for all students.*

Application Process

Students must prepare and submit an application detailing the proposed research project. The application is to be developed by the student in consultation with a faculty sponsor. Applications submitted without the written consent of a sponsor will **not** be accepted.

Application deadline: SPRING 2021 – coming soon

Questions may be directed to Evelyn Blas, Program Support Specialist at blasev@rwjms.rutgers.edu