

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Summer Research Program Applicants

General Questions:

- **When does the summer program start?** Monday, June 17, 2024.
- **Will there be required in-person activities?** Yes, weekly lectures are held on Tuesdays at 4 PM in the Medical Education Building (MEB), Room 102. The Symposium is also held in person in Piscataway, and all students in the program are expected to give a presentation.
- **Will the lectures be recorded?** No, the lectures are not recorded.
- **Is there a weekly time requirement that must be met for the summer program?** Yes, depending on the mentor and/or project. Students generally dedicate a significant portion of their time to the project (usually ~35hrs/week), but the specifics can be arranged with the mentor depending on the needs of the project.
- **Is the research symposium mandatory for both the training and fellowship students?** Yes!
- **Is the presentation at the Summer Student Research Program Symposium on August 7th required to participate in the Summer Student Research Program (Fellowship and Training options)?** Yes, a presentation at the symposium is mandatory. Abstracts are due on July 26, 2024
- **When and where will the symposium take place?** Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at RWJMS in Piscataway. We encourage you to invite your mentors and collaborators to come and hear all the presentations.
- **Will the student have to come up with the project, or will the mentor have a project in mind?** It all depends on the mentor. Some mentors will add the students to their current projects, while others want the students to come up with a project.
- **Can students work on more than one project at the same time (but only do the program for one of the projects)?** We do **not** encourage working on more than one project in order to achieve meaningful results and outcomes. However, it is possible, and if it is determined by the mentor, that the student can successfully manage to work on multiple projects, and ONLY with the APPROVAL of your mentor.
- **Can students participate in the symposium if they conducted research at another institution?** Yes, students must apply to the RWJMS Summer Research Training Program.

Training Option FAQs:

- **When does the registration open?**
The registration will open on **March 1, 2024**, and close on **April 5, 2024**.

Note: Students who apply for a fellowship but are not selected for fellowship support due to limited funds will automatically be accepted into the Summer Research Program as part of the Training Option.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Summer Research Program Applicants

- **If students find a mentor and project before the summer and have not yet applied to the summer research program, can they join the training option since the deadline has passed?** It is possible. Please contact our office at rwjmsresearch@rwjms.rutgers.edu as soon as possible and no later than **June 1**.
- **If a student applied for the training program but found a mentor and project, can they apply for the Fellowship?** Yes, as long as it is before the Fellowship deadline. Please notify our office at rwjmsresearch@rwjms.rutgers.edu as soon as possible so we don't match a mentor.
- **When will we be informed of our mentor match (Training option)?** As the program evolves, we have asked for the departments' assistance with the matching process. Once registration opens, we will start the matching process and continue until the end of May. Please note that not everyone will receive their notifications at the same time.

Fellowship Option FAQs:

- **Are M2 students (rising M3) eligible to apply to the fellowship program?** Yes.
- **Can my mentor's NIH biosketch be substituted by his/her CV?** Yes, CVs are acceptable.
- **The IRB protocol (or IACUC protocol for animals) for my project is being submitted shortly and should be approved by the time the research program starts. Can I still apply for the fellowship if it's not approved by the application deadline?** Yes, you can submit your application for the fellowship and indicate on the application form that IRB (or IACUC) approval is pending. IRB (IACUC) approval will be needed before students in either the fellowship or training option can start working on the project.
- **I have a research mentor to work on a project at another institution (non-Rutgers). Can I still apply for the fellowship?** Regrettably, due to funding limitations, we are unable to offer fellowships for M1/M2 students applying to conduct research over the summer with a mentor outside of Rutgers. However, you can apply for the Training option.
- **How many Fellowships are awarded each year?** This depends on the amount of funding our office receives each year. Last year (2023), we awarded 32 fellowships.
- **When will I hear if I've been awarded a fellowship?** No later than May 1st. Fellowship recipients will have until May 1st to accept or decline the award.
- **How will I receive my Fellowship stipend?** Via check. We will notify you how and when it will be distributed.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Summer Research Program Applicants

- **Is the Fellowship stipend taxed?** Fellowship stipends are considered taxable income. You will receive a 1099MISC tax form in January 2025. Please make sure to contact our office if you do not receive your tax form no later than February 15, 2025.

IMPORTANT: If you change your address during the summer, please notify the Office of Research directly with your new address to avoid any delays in payment.

Please reach out to the RWJMS Office Of Research for additional questions or concerns.