



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Summer Research Program First-Year Medical Students

2009 Application Instructions

Calendar:	Feb/March	- Job Fair, 5 th Floor Gallery <i>(for those searching for a faculty mentor)</i>	
	March 31	- Applications due in the Office of Educational Programs - 315, Attn: Linda Guardiola, Summer Research Coordinator	
	April 6	- <i>Approximate date</i> for Selection Committee Meeting. Participants will be selected based on the merit of the proposed project	
	April 7	- <i>Approximate date</i> students notified of results	
	Mid-April	- Participants Meeting	⇒ <i>Mandatory Attendance</i>
	May 27	- Orientation and first day of the program	⇒ <i>Mandatory Attendance</i>
	July 31	- Closing ceremonies and last day of program	⇒ <i>Mandatory Attendance</i>
	Late October	- Research Forum	⇒ <i>Mandatory Attendance</i>

**** The following instructions are provided with the understanding that they may be updated as required without notice.**

Participation in Program:

MS-1 Students in good academic standing can participate in the Summer Research Program in three ways: (1) as a NIH stipend recipient, (2) as faculty-supported, or (3) as a volunteer.

****NIH stipend money is dependent on renewal of NIH funding each year****

Students who are Not selected for a NIH stipend:

Medical Students who are not selected for a NIH stipend by the Selection Committee can still participate in the Summer Research Program with the approval and support by their faculty mentor and/or the faculty's department. The MS-1 student must negotiate a stipend with his faculty mentor.

Volunteers, who cannot be financially supported by their faculty, are also welcome to participate in the program.

These students receive the same credit and benefits of the Summer Research Program as the NIH students; with the exception of the NIH stipend. It is understood that these students will meet all the requirements of the program.

NIH Restrictions:

“Individuals holding MS or PhD degrees in the Health Sciences, and those already matriculated in formal programs leading to the MS or PhD degree, are NOT eligible. Individuals on temporary or student visas are NOT eligible.” ~ *National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases*

To Select a Research Mentor:

- UTHSC at Houston Medical Students may begin their search for a summer research project and/or mentor at any point after they have entered UT Houston Medical School the previous August.
- Any faculty member at the Medical School or UTHSC-Houston is eligible to act as a mentor.
- Review the faculty list of past faculty participants.
- Check out faculty’s research webpages
- Job Fair (March 20) for those students still searching for a mentor, meet potential faculty mentors and department representatives.

→ **Research in the area of diabetes and digestive and kidney diseases is strongly encouraged. The following is a partial list:**

GI	Diabetes	Obesity
Endocrine disorders	Metabolic diseases	Digestive diseases
Cystic Fibrosis	Urological disorders	Kidney disease (Nephrology)
Stem Cell research	Nutrition	Hematological diseases
Liver and intestinal diseases (Hepatology)		
Basic biology or organ systems		
Developmental and structural biology		

How to Apply to the Program:

- Make an **appointment** with the faculty mentor of your choice to discuss potential projects.
- Inform your selected faculty of the dates of the 10-week research program; that your stipend may be paid by NIH; \$550 is paid to the faculty to cover your expenses.
- With your faculty mentor, write a 1-2 page project **proposal**. The project proposal should be in your own words. Excerpts from grant proposals will not be accepted. *Be sure to take these instructions.*
- Fill out an **application** form. Faculty mentor must sign the application with you.
- Attach a copy of the faculty’s **biographic** sketch, if appropriate. (See application form for more info.)
- Compose a 200-words-or-less **personal statement** outlining the major reasons you are interested in the Summer Research Program using the following as a guidelines:
 1. What makes you interested in doing research?
 2. Why did you select the research you chose?
 3. Why did you select your proposed faculty mentor?
 3. Additional considerations regarding your proposed research?
- Submit your application, one copy of your project proposal, and your personal statement by March 31st.

Project Proposal Considerations:

With your faculty mentor, write a 1-2 page project proposal. **The project proposal should be in your own words!** Major excerpts from your mentor’s grant proposals will not be accepted.

Your research plan should address the following questions –

1. What do you intend to do?
2. What is the scientific merit and importance of the research project?
3. What has already been done?
4. How are you going to accomplish the work?
5. Is there a clear explanation of your role in the research project?
6. Is the scope of the project feasible as a 10-week summer project?
7. If you are contributing to a long-term, on-going research study, are you able to identify some quantifiable goods and objectives that are uniquely yours? *(You must write an abstract on your research.)*

Layout of the Proposal: *(A National Institutes of Health format)*

TITLE

SPECIFIC AIMS

(List long-term objectives and describe concisely what the specific research project is intended to accomplish and any hypotheses to be tested.)

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

(Briefly sketch the background to the present proposal and state concisely the importance of the research project.)

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

(Describe the design and the procedures used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.)

*For more information, contact Linda Guardiola, Program Coordinator,
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