

Advising notes on the MCB research experience requirement

The requirement for a research experience can be fulfilled by at least one semester of research (LS 100r, MCB 91r or MCB 99) or a summer research experience in an approved program. To fulfill the research requirement, a summer research experience ordinarily: (i) consists of at least 8 weeks of full-time research; (ii) is sponsored by a Harvard-affiliated faculty member; (iii) is broadly related to the field; and (iv) culminates in a capstone experience (substantive written report, poster or oral presentation outside of the host lab). A list of approved programs that fulfill these requirements is available from the concentration office.

Several Harvard-based research programs currently encompass the four components listed above:

- Harvard College Program for Research in Science and Engineering (PRISE)
- Herchel Smith Fellowship (research sponsored by Harvard-affiliated faculty)
- Harvard Center for Systems Biology (CSB) summer program
- Harvard Microbial Sciences Initiative (MSI) summer program
- Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI) summer program
- Harvard Initiative in Global Health summer program (as long as the work consists of a qualifying research project (see item (iii) above)
- Harvard Summer Abroad Program at the RIKEN in Tokyo, Japan

Selected Harvard Summer Abroad Programs may qualify, with pre-approval from the concentration office. In addition, for students whose summer research experience fulfills items (i)-(iii) above but does not culminate in a capstone experience (e.g. HCRP-funded full-time summer research) will have opportunities through the academic year to complete a capstone experience, this may include presentations at LSURF, or HCURA-sponsored symposia, or publication in THURJ.