**Goals and Expectations for Summer Researchers**

A summer research project is a rewarding way to learn science hands-on, become familiar with techniques, gain professional experience, and become a part of a larger research community. The experience can help a person understand their interests and to hone their strengths.

To make the summer research experience as rewarding as possible, students should be aware of the expectations on them. Conversely, the mentors also are expected to uphold certain responsibilities. Summer research experiences are different than working for credit throughout the school year as there is more time available and require more independence.

**Summer Researcher Goals & Expectations**

* Students are expected to set a ***work schedule*** that meets the requirements of their fellowship program. The nature of the work doesn’t require a set schedule, but the student can communicate that they will work certain days morning and/or afternoon. This will help mentors be available. If the student will unexpectedly be unable to attend lab at a typical time, they should inform their mentor out of courtesy. Students should expect that their schedule should adhere more closely to 9am – 5pm at the beginning of the summer. As they become more independent, they can become more flexible. However, all researchers in the lab should strive to have 75% of their time overlap with the 9am – 5pm window.
* Students must adhere to all ***safety protocols*** of the lab. *Though it is tempting to wear sandals or shorts during the summer, best safety practices recommend closed-toed shoes and pants.*
* Students must adhere to all ***scientific integrity practices***. Fabrication, falsification, and forgery are not tolerated and will result in severe action.
* Summer researchers ***are part of the lab***. They are expected to perform all the roles of a lab member such as attending lab meetings and re-ordering items when they run low.
* Students are expected to keep a ***standard lab notebook***.
* A goal of the student should be to ***conduct good research and be able to summarize the project at the end of the summer*** in a coherent manner that fits the fellowship requirements. This will require an understanding that what you put in is what you get out. Willingness to focus, work, and do homework will increase the chances for having a successful and personally meaningful experience.
* A goal of the student should be to progressively ***acquire a sense of ownership*** of the project and become more independent. This may involve conducting independent readings and acquiring additional mentors.
* A goal of the student should be to build their ***professional skills***. This includes command of their field, effective communication, and emotional intelligence.
* Students should ask ***questions, questions, questions***! If something is unclear, or even a little bit fuzzy, feel empowered to ask specific questions or just to have things explained again.
* If there is any problem with the project, understanding, or the working environment, the student should try as best as possible to ***communicate their concerns***.

**Mentor Goals & Expectations**

* Mentors are expected to inform summer students of any ***absences*** and recommend other mentors during their absences. Mentors are expected to outline times and periods to ‘check in’ on the progress of the project and to check that the best methods are employed to ensure success. This can be once a week, at certain points in each protocol, or progressively as needed.
* Mentors must inform students of ***all safety practices and scientific integrity*** practices that are standard in their field.
* Mentors are expected to outline the ***goals and techniques*** used in the project clearly. If there is any confusion, mentors are expected to be approachable and set aside time and effort to clarify any confusion. Mentors should provide sufficient background information for techniques, approaches, and projects.
* Mentors should try to ***include*** summer students in lab discussions, meetings, or journal clubs, as they are applicable.
* Mentors should make it a goal to ***become better mentors***, to hone their skills in project design, management, and instruction. They should also work on effective communication, rapport, approachability, and emotional intelligence.
* If there is any problem with the project, understanding, or the working environment, the mentor should try to ***communicate their concerns***.
* Mentors are expected to foster not only the summer research project but also the overall ***professional development*** and progress of their students. They are expected to write letters of recommendation, too.

Science can be both joy and frustration and it is important to understand that both are a normal part of laboratory work. When working in this unpredictable yet also exciting framework, good communication between the student and mentor will help keep the project on track and keep people from feeling like they are going crazy. If at any time anyone feels that some aspect of the work, the research, or the relationship is not working, please make the best effort to talk about these issues so they can be addressed and resolved.