



## **Policy on Summer Research for Entering MCB Students**

It is recognized that students who will be entering in the fall semester may wish to arrive earlier in the summer and begin a research project with a faculty member before the official start of the semester (usually the third week of August).

The Graduate Affairs Office (GAO) is usually the first point of contact for such student requests. The GAO informs the entering student of the financial implications (see “Payments” below). They also inform the student that arrangements for a summer research project should be negotiated directly with the faculty member with whom they wish to work.

***Summer research projects are not considered as one of the three required rotations*** for which students receive a formal grade. Students doing a summer research project are still required to complete three rotations with the rest of the first year class during the Fall and Spring semesters. They may choose to list the lab in which they performed summer research as a choice for any of their three rotations. The fact that a student performed a summer project in a lab will not give the student priority over his/her classmates for a rotation assignment in that laboratory. If a student works in the summer and then does 3 different rotations for a total of 4 lab experiences, the student can return to the summer lab for thesis work only as a fourth rotation.

**Payments:** Payment of summer research stipend is the primary responsibility of the faculty mentor. Faculty should check with their HR staff to process the hiring of the student, if necessary. There are several funding scenarios depending on whether the student is international or a recipient of an extramural fellowship. Students eligible to be placed on a training grant (U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents only) can begin their training grant appointments effective July 1. The department responsibility for the student does not begin until August 1. Therefore, the mentor would have the responsibility of supplementing the training grant for the month of July and also for *any* payments for the month of June. If a student is international, there is no funding support from the Department until the first of August and thus the summer salary (equivalent to the current MCB graduate student stipend) must be paid by the mentor. Homeland Security does not allow an entering graduate student to enter the country more than 30 days prior to the start of the semester (thus ~ the last week of July).

Students who have received extramural fellowships such as Ford Foundation or National Science Foundation should notify the GAO of the start date of their award. The GAO will then calculate what and when the fellowship will pay and advise the faculty mentor of the amount of summer salary they need to pay to the student.