

## **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).

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; [email the concentration office](#) for more information. In addition, 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.

Because most summer research programs aren't courses, there is nothing to enroll in, there won't be a final grade, and the experience won't appear on the transcript. Students will have the opportunity to indicate that they have participated in an approved summer research program at the time of concentration declaration. Note that those who fulfill the research requirement in the summer and do not enroll in LS 100r, MCB 91r or MCB 99 at a later time may need to take an additional course to meet the minimum number of 12 concentration half-courses (14 for honors) required for the degree.