Summer Research FAQ's

Q: When do summer applications typically open?

A: At the earliest applications will open in October, with many deadlines being throughout January-March. It is important that you check the program's website for a timeline detailing their application process (date application opens, application deadline, interview dates, and when to expect offer letters to be sent).

Q: How important is research?

A: Any research is good research, whether you are considering Bench vs Clinical. Clinical research depends on your specialty or career path.

Q: What is the "ideal" research project?

A: An ideal project should hit on these areas:

- Clinically related to the field you are interested in.
- Your research preceptor has experience working with medical students.
- You are interested in the project (not just doing it to fill your CV – it is important you are thoroughly engaged in the subject matter).
- The project will yield a publication and/or presentation.

Q: What types of summer research opportunities do students typically apply to?

A: There are a lot of opportunities for you to consider at both the national and local levels:

- Summer Research Fellowship Programs – national and local, these are typically paid positions. Since national fellowships are open to all medical students, they tend to be more competitive.
- NEOMED Student Research Fellowship – local, paid.
- NEOMED Research Focus Areas - local, both paid and non-paid.
- Non-Funded Research – national and local, involves research with mentors in which students seek out on their own, who may not necessarily be a part of a structured summer program.

Q: Where can I find more information on summer research opportunities?

A: To start, it is suggested students first reach out to their Academic & Career Advisor in Student Affairs (College of Medicine) to discuss available opportunities that meet their career interests.

Other resources:

- **Meet with your Academic & Career Advisor (ACA)**
  - Research Mentor Directory
- **College of Medicine Student Affairs – Medicine Career Center Canvas Site**:
  - https://www.neomed.edu/canvas/
  - *Folder: Research and Fellowship Opportunities > Summer Externships and Research Opportunities*
  - *2027 Summer Externships and Research Opportunities Directory*
- NEOMED Student Research Fellowship Program
- NEOMED Research Focus Areas
- Student Research & Opportunities | College of Medicine Research | NEOMED

Q: Can I participate in more than one summer experience?

A: Students can participate in more than one summer experience, as long as they are aware of the expectations for all experiences they have committed to.

Q: If I commit to a summer experience and then change my mind, can I withdraw my commitment?

A: When a student and the principal investigator of a specific research fellowship opportunity have – through mutual discussion – determined a match exists and the student "commits" to work on that specific project with the principal investigator, that "commitment" is firm if the program clearly states they have a binding commitment.

If the program does not state they have a binding commitment and you are considering revoking your acceptance because you heard back from another program, reach out to your ACA, Dr. Stofcho or Ms. Stanger to discuss your options.

Q: What paperwork does NEOMED need me to complete in order to let them know I am participating in a summer experience?

A: You MUST complete the **Participation Agreement for Not-for-Credit Experiences** for approval, prior to starting any off-campus shadowing or research experiences. Participation Agreement for Not-for-Credit Experiences (College of Medicine) – During medical school, students may choose to engage in off-campus, non-credit experiences (i.e. shadowing, research, etc.) to help enhance their clinical skills or competitiveness for residency placement. These experiences must: 1) Be at the direction of and approved by College of Medicine, Student Affairs, 2) Be of educational merit, 3) Be hosted by a physician/principal investigator who has agreed to supervise the student by abiding by

the NEOMED Not-for-Credit Guidelines. This form can also be found on the NEOMED website at: https://www.neomed.edu/studentservices/forms/

Additionally, if you are conducting research for studies utilizing external IRB approvals (off-campus), you must complete the following NEOMED form:

https://neomed.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1FyogBBKHs8BCdg

This form currently collects information involving off campus projects (research, quality improvement, program evaluation, literature reviews, community assessment projects) of the medical, pharmacy, graduate, and soon to be dental students. It is a way for the NEOMED IRB to help keep an eye on projects that are occurring that aren't our purview to review, but involve our students. The goal is to help ensure that students are seeking the appropriate reviews at our teaching locations and are following the appropriate guidelines and policies of other institutions hosting our students in their research projects. The form feeds into an excel file for easy review and collection of information.

If you have questions regarding this form, please reach out to Research Compliance at researchcompliance@neomed.edu

Q: What specific experiences require completion of the NEOMED Participation Agreement for Not-for-Credit Experiences?

A: The form must be completed:

- If you are participating in the NEOMED Student Research Fellowship Program this summer, you **do not** need to complete this form, since the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has your information on file.
- If you have arranged for an on-campus research project with a NEOMED faculty member/principal investigator outside of the NEOMED Student Research Fellowship Program, you **do not** need complete this form.
- If you are participating in volunteer service opportunities, you **do not** need to complete this form.
- If you were accepted to participate in a local/national research fellowship/clinical preceptorship program, you **must** complete this form.
- If you plan to engage in any not-for-credit shadowing experiences, you **must** complete this form.

Q: Can I start a summer experience while currently enrolled in the May Intersession?

A: Students should not start a summer experience while still enrolled in the May Intersession as their focus should be on successfully completing their courses and finishing the academic year.

Q: What are some of the common application materials needed when applying to a summer fellowship experience?

A: Common Application Materials include:

- Curriculum Vita (CV)
- Letters of Recommendation (LoR)
- Academic Transcripts
- Personal Statement/Statement of Interest
- Letter of Good Standing

Q: For my application, they are asking that I submit a letter of recommendation from a medical school faculty member. Who should I ask to write this?

A: Some summer programs might ask you to submit a letter of recommendation. If they ask for a medical school specific letter, consider reaching out to your Reflective Practice faculty leaders, PDAT clinician advisor, your ACA asking if they would be willing to write you one. If they are asking for a "Dean's" letter of recommendation, please contact Dr. Corrie Stofcho, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

Q: For my application, they are asking that I submit a "letter of good standing." Who provides this?

A: If a program asks for you to submit a "letter of good standing" or "enrollment verification" please request this through the NEOMED Registrar's Office at registrar@neomed.edu .

Q: Will I have to interview for a summer fellowship? If so, how should I prepare?

A: In most cases, yes you will need to interview for a summer fellowship position. Here are some tips on how to prepare:

Do some research on your potential mentor:

- Are they published?
- What is their area of research expertise?

Ask these questions during your interview:

- What is the expected time commitment?
- What is the outcome? (poster at research day, publication, etc.)
- Will I need to learn any new software applications? If yes, how will I be trained?
- Is there statistical software or support available?
- What type of supervision/mentoring will I receive?
- What is the research environment (lab, hospital, physician's office, online, remote, etc.)?

Q: If I am participating in an experience the summer after M1 year, when does M2 year officially start so I can make sure my experience doesn't conflict with the start of classes.

A: Please note that the M1 May Intersession ends on Saturday, May 22, 2027, and M2 year starts on Monday, July 26, 2027. If the fellowship/summer opportunity in which you are interested in doesn't match these dates, consider contacting the program to inquire about flexibility. You must be present for the start of M2 classes.

Q: If I still have questions about summer research, who can I reach out to at NEOMED?

A: Please reach out to Ms. Harmony Stanger, Director of Student Affairs (hstanger@neomed.edu) with any additional questions.

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