



Summer Research FAQ's

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:

- College of Medicine Student Affairs – Medicine Career Center Canvas Site:
 - <https://www.neomed.edu/canvas/>

- Folder: Research and Fellowship Opportunities.
- AAMC Careers in Medicine site
 - Must be logged in to access the [Clinical and Research Opportunities Database](#)
- [NEOMED Student Research Fellowship Program](#)
- [NEOMED Research Focus Areas](#)

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 student 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. The decision by a student to revoke their prior commitment in order to accept another fellowship opportunity is considered a professionalism issue and may result in a Behavioral Concern form being filed in the student record.

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/student-services/forms/>

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 were accepted to participate in a local/national research fellowship/preceptorship program, you **must** complete this form.
- If you plan to engage in any not-for-credit shadowing experiences throughout M1-M4 year, you **must** complete this form.

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

A: Students should not start a summer experience while still enrolled in the Maymester 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 or PDAT clinician advisor 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 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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