

Rotation Schedule and Guidelines 2024-2025

Molecules, Cells and Organisms PhD Program

Rotation Period	Dates
Period 1	October 14 – December 13
Period 2	January 6 – March 7
Period 3	March 10 – May 2
Period 4	Requires discussion with MCO leadership by April 15

Lab joining deadline: May 15

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Enable students to sample prospective mentors en route to establishing a long-term mentor-mentee relationship that will guide their scientific training and career path. While primarily a search for a thesis advisor, rotation mentors can additionally figure in a student's future as DAC members or collaborators.
2. Give students exposure to a variety of research concepts, techniques, and model systems.
3. Introduce students to broader science communities within the MCO program that will help support them with additional relationships and networking opportunities.

POLICIES

1. All students must complete three ~8 week-long lab rotations **within the three periods listed**.
2. Out of these three, a **minimum of two must be with MCO faculty** by the end of the third rotation period.
3. The second rotation must be lined up by Thanksgiving.
4. Any non-MCO rotations require permission from MCO leadership in advance, and may not be automatically approved.
5. Fourth rotation requests have to be submitted by April 15, 2025 and require approval by MCO leadership.
6. Following completion of each rotation, faculty are expected to fill out a rotation report in my.harvard, which will be available to the student and used by program leadership to guide students through the rotation process.
7. In fairness to all, no faculty member should make a commitment to a student prior to April 15, 2025.
8. A lab rotation **must** be with a faculty member affiliated with a HILS PhD program. Broad Institute members whose appointments are from MIT or elsewhere are not permitted under any circumstances.

Important: Students are expected to join a lab by May 15, 2025 and start research right away. MCO (along with all GSAS programs) is a full-time residential program and students are expected to be aware of the HGSU-UAW regulations regarding time off, outlined in Article 27 of the union contract [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET FACULTY

1. MCO Orientation August 26-August 30, 2024)
2. MCB retreat (Sept. 20-21, 2024)
3. MCB297 (Scientific Journeys), a Fall semester course akin to CB300 and SB300
4. Friday MCB seminars and TGIFs
5. Students will be encouraged to meet individually with prospective rotation advisors and attend prospective rotation lab group meetings