

Rotation Schedule and Guidelines 2024-2025

Molecules, Cells and Organisms PhD Program

Rotation Period	Dates
Period 1	October 21 – December 13
Period 2	January 13 – March 7
Period 3	March 10 – May 2
Period 4	Requires discussion in advance with MCO Leadership

Lab Joining Deadline is May 31.

OBJECTIVES

1. To sample prospective mentor-mentee relationships for student training and preparation for a science career. These prospective mentors include possible thesis advisor, DAC members, and collaborators.
2. To expose students to a variety of research concepts, techniques, and model systems.
3. To introduce students to different kinds of science and to meet our community of scientists to provide students with collegial relationships and networking opportunities within the MCO program.

POLICIES

1. All students will complete at least three 5-8 week lab rotations **within** the dates listed above.
2. A minimum of 2 rotations **must** be with MCO faculty. No exceptions.
3. The first 2 rotations **must** be with MCO faculty.
4. Any non-MCO rotations require permission from MCO leadership in advance, and may not be automatically approved.
5. Any rotations beyond a 3rd will require discussion in advance with MCO leadership.
6. Following the completion of the rotation, faculty will complete a rotation report in my.harvard, which will be available to the student and program leadership.
7. In fairness to all, no faculty member should make a commitment to a student prior to May 1, 2025.
8. Any 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: Upon completion of rotations, it is expected that students join a lab and begin your research right away. MCO (along with all GSAS programs) is a full-time residential program, and students should be aware of the HGSU-UAW regulations regarding time off, outlined in Article 27 of the union contract [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET FACULTY

1. MCB retreat (Sept. 20-21, 2024)
2. MCO Orientation August 26-August 30, 2024)
3. Friday MCB seminars and TGIFs.
4. Explore lab opportunities by attending lab group meetings and open houses during the fall.
5. Arrange personal meetings with prospective faculty mentors.