

ROTATIONS & PERMANENT LAB PLACEMENT

PMB and the GGM require students to perform three ten-week rotations. At the end of third rotation, students will need to select and be accepted into a permanent lab. A fourth rotation is possible, if necessary.

Lab rotations give students the opportunity to explore areas of interest as possibilities for Ph.D. research. The department will work with you throughout the summer to set your initial rotation, although the onus is on the student to make arrangements with Faculty members directly. Faculty members will expect that you will contact them about rotations before you arrive and throughout the year. The Faculty Research Review also affectionately called “Profs on Parade” and the Fall Department Retreat are meant to help you make decisions regarding which labs you would like to work in.

Because each of your three choices for a rotation represents a potential laboratory in which you might pursue your doctoral dissertation research, you should keep an open mind at all times. While you are free to express your interest in any particular laboratory at any time, it is not permissible for you to seek a firm commitment about a position in a laboratory prior to the completion of all three of your rotations. Likewise, it is inappropriate for faculty to make a firm commitment to any student prior to the completion of all three rotation periods

The decision about which lab you will join will be one of the most important decisions you will make in grad school. Seek out advice from others about how to make this decision. Along with the science aspects of this decision, you will also want to consider how well you fit in with the dynamic of the lab, available funded projects, the mentoring style of the PI, and more.

Process for rotating with a PMB and/or GGM faculty member

Students approach and confirm acceptance into a rotation period with a particular faculty member directly. The student is responsible for reminding our PMB and GGM faculty member of the PMB rotation schedule. Once the rotation has been confirmed, the student must either forward the confirmation email from the faculty member to Rocio, in the PMB Graduate Affairs Office, or copy Rocio in the acceptance confirmation by the PMB notification due date listed below.

Process for rotating with a MCB faculty member in the GGM

Microbiology students wishing to rotate with a MCB faculty member in the GGM will need to approach and confirm acceptance into a rotation period with that faculty member directly. The student is responsible for informing the MCB faculty member of the PMB/GGM rotation schedule since it differs from MCB’s schedule. Once the rotation has been confirmed, the student must either forward the confirmation email from the faculty member to Rocio, in the PMB Graduate Office, or copy Rocio in the acceptance confirmation. Rocio will then inform the MCB Graduate Affairs Office (Berta and Tanya) of those PMB students who have been accepted in MCB labs for a given period. Rocio will also email all faculty accepting rotation students of the PMB rotation schedule as a reminder. Students, who plan to join an MCB lab, have the same grace period as MCB.

PMB 2016 -2017 Rotation Schedule

1st Rotation: 9/6 – 11/10

2nd Rotation: 11/14 – 2/3

3rd Rotation: 2/6 – 4/14

4th Rotation (optional): 4/17 – 6/19

PMB notification due: 9/2

PMB notification due: 11/11

PMB notification due: 2/3

PMB notification due: 4/14

Grace Period: 4/17 – 4/21
Permanent Lab Placement: 4/21 at noon
Thesis Lab Placement Begins on April 24 2017

For each rotation:

- Meet with the PI at the beginning of your rotation to talk about lab expectations. Every lab is different and it is very important to understand what you need to do in order to do well. You might consider discussing performance expectations, what you hope to gain from this experience, employee & safety rules, time schedules, vacation schedule (especially for rotation #2), attending and presenting at lab meetings, etc.
- At the end of your rotation the department will require the PIs to send us an evaluation of your rotation with them. Your PI should also meet with you to discuss this review. You will also be able to add any comments that you wish to make.

Example Rotation Feedback Questions:

Student Name:

Rotation #2

Comments about scientific/technical strengths and weaknesses:

Comments about work style, work ethic & habits, communication:

Recommendations for the future:

If you were going to assign this student a letter grade for the rotation, what would it be?

Other Comments:
