MARC/IMSD Fellows Application
Project Proposal and Description

The MARC/IMSD Fellows Proposal is limited to 1000 words, and/or two pages of single-space text, or four pages, double-spaced. You are free to use your discretion in formatting to make it readable. There are a few sample proposals on the MARC/IMSD website for you to reference.

You must consult with your mentor prior to writing the project description, but you should participate in the development of the project, and you must write the proposal. Your mentor may help edit and revise, but this will be your project.

Your proposal should include the following:

**Title** (6 to 20 words)

**Introduction** to the topic, explanation of the problems addressed, and the history of current related research. Reference current literature (see below).

**Purpose** is the clear and concise statement of the question(s) to be answered or the hypothesis(es) to be tested.

**Methods** is a description of research approaches, information to be collected, planned analyses, and activities to be accomplished during the funding period. Do not include detailed experimental techniques or protocols—just cite references or give the standard names of the techniques/protocols. Include a description of why these particular methods and approaches are being used to answer your research question. If you are applying for fellows, with a possibility of accepting a summer internship if not selected for a full year fellowship, describe your research plan for the summer and the full year.

**Expected Results/Significance** is what your results may yield in filling an important gap in our understanding of a particular question. If your project is not clearly in the life sciences, please include a statement demonstrating the relationship between your research and important questions or challenges in life sciences.

**Involvement** describes what you will actually do. Use simple terms to describe what you will contribute to the project and how you will spend your time. Include other lab responsibilities, if any.

**Literature Review** must include at least three to five relevant articles cited in the body of the proposal. In developing your project, you are expected to read appropriate background material (probably journal articles, but possibly book chapters, or government reports) that gives you a broader understanding of the context in which your research will be conducted.
The details of the citations are not counted as part of the proposal and should be listed on a separate page.

**Freshman Project Description**

Freshmen students applying for a summer internship should follow the basic outline of the longer project proposal. However, a literature review is not required and the methods section can be omitted. The student is still expected to embark on a relevant semi-independent project, but it is not expected that after a few months in a lab, the student will be familiar with all the research foundations to describe the project completely. If able, a student is still welcome to submit a full proposal.