

## Interested in becoming a trainer in the Bacteriology MS Program?

The Bacteriology MS Program is always looking to add new faculty trainers who are interested in providing training opportunities for students in the research option of the program. We realize many faculty are not entirely familiar with our program and therefore have outlined many of the requirements and expectations below. Also, please refer to our website for additional information <https://masters.bact.wisc.edu> and <https://masters.bact.wisc.edu/research-option/> for the research track option specifically.

Many of our students in the research track are very capable and enter the program to explore what it means to be a research scientist. They are looking for an opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of what it means to do research. Our students go on to obtain PhDs, to transition into professional training (medical, law, business, etc.) or to directly enter the job market.

Note that, unlike most PhD programs on campus, we do not accept students into the research track until they have identified a lab in which to work. Therefore, trainers may be contacted by interested students prior to admittance to the program. Once a student has identified a research mentor, then the formal application process begins. Alternatively, applications for research track students can be pre-approved as acceptable by the MS program committee, but pre-approved students will not be admitted until a trainer has been identified that agrees to accept the student in their laboratory and provide financial support.

Once a student joins a laboratory as a Bacteriology MS research track student, it is expected that the student will be provided space and training in the mentor's lab. It is required that MS students are supported financially by the lab. A student should be supported by the laboratory as a Research Assistant ( $\leq 50\%$ ). For the student to be eligible for benefits such as health insurance, at least 33% support is required. Labs will be responsible for tuition remission that covers coursework and independent research credits. Research Assistants are expected to work full time towards their degree, which includes lab work and coursework.

The vast majority of students contribute effectively and are able to fulfill their research project in the lab. Should a student not be meeting expectations, additional involvement may be required. In such a case, the trainer should discuss expectations with the student and the student's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and contact the program director to alert them of the complaint and the steps taken to rectify the situation. When needed, the trainer, RAC, and/or program director will meet with the student to try and remedy the issue. If these additional steps fail to create a solution, the trainer can request the student leave the lab but will need to support the student until they find another laboratory or for one semester.

Expectations for completion of the research track MS degree include coursework plus carrying out independent research that will contribute to a publication (current or future) from the laboratory. Progress through the degree includes the requirement to select a research committee, prepare a research proposal to present at a first-year committee meeting, and prepare and defend a research thesis (see website for further guidance). See the MS research option website for details and guidelines on the requirements. Full time students are expected to complete the degree in about 2 years, but depend on other obligations (such as other jobs on or off campus), timing may be longer.