

BU's BEST

Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training

EXPERIENCE FAQ for Faculty Mentors

Workforce needs for bio-medically trained PhDs continues to change. As one of only 17 Broadening Experience in Scientific Training (BEST) schools chosen by the National Institutes of Health, BU is enhancing biomedical career development curriculum for PhD and postdoctoral trainees in a way that explores careers both in and outside of standard academic research.

It is with our national role in responding proactively to these changes that we are offering our trainees the option to EXPERIENCE a potential career by participating in a shadowing experience, internship, or externship.

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions that many faculty mentors have when they first hear about the program.

1. Can my trainee participate in an internship without my consent?

No. As part of the internship application, trainees submit a signed P.I. Consent Form (blank form available at: http://www.bu.edu/best/files/2015/12/BEST_PI_internship-agreement_v2.pdf).

2. Will an internship affect my trainee's annual effort reporting?

The US government recently stated that predoc and postdoc trainees paid on any federal grants (NIH, NSF, DoD, etc) are expected to engage in career development activities ([Uniform Guidance 200.400--2](#)). NIH has interpreted this policy statement to mean that trainees participating in professional development and experiential non-bench training (including short-term internships such as these) do not need to report their effort differently. For more information see http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2014_12_17/caredit.a1400315

3. What is the timing of an EXPERIENCE?

The length and hours vary by EXPERIENCE site. BU's BEST has set up the EXPERIENCES to be 5-10 hours a week so that these EXPERIENCES do not interfere with laboratory project completion. Timing of the EXPERIENCE is up to the trainee, the faculty mentor, and the EXPERIENCE host.

4. Will students and postdocs be allowed to "keep projects going" by coming in to lab on evenings and/or weekends while doing their internships?

Yes! And we encourage them to do this so that the effect of internships on students' time to degree and trainees' publication

records are not negatively affected by the EXPERIENCE. We also encourage mentors to discuss this with the trainees to develop a realistic set of goals and expectations for their effort in the lab during the EXPERIENCE.

5. Do I continue to pay my trainee while on the EXPERIENCE?

Yes. The PI will continue paying the salary as the trainees should be making the same progress on their project as normal.

6. Are the EXPERIENCES paid?

Some are. Some are not. This is up to the host and also depends on on trainee status.

7. Can any graduate student or postdoc participate?

At the time of application the applicant must be at least a 4th year bio-medical doctoral student (post-qualifying exam) or postdoctoral research scientist conducting research at Boston University.

8. When will the EXPERIENCE start?

As the workforce moves rapidly so does BU's BEST EXPERIENCES. We expect to have rolling application processes and start dates. We will post EXPERIENCES as they become available on our website (bu.edu/BEST). The start dates are up to the trainee, PI, and EXPERIENCE site.

9. In what career areas are internships available?

We are building internship opportunities in the following broad career areas:

- a. Business/Administration
- b. Science Policy
- c. Industry Research and Development
- d. Teaching Intensive Careers
- e. Science Communication
- f. Intellectual Property Law/ Technology Transfer

10. Which companies/organizations will be hosting interns?

You can find a list of EXPERIENCES on our webpage at

<http://www.bu.edu/best/trainees/experience-a-possible-career/> .

11. I know of a local company that would be a great internship provider. Whom should I tell? We are always looking for new internship providers. Please contact Dr. Chelsea Epler (bubest@bu.edu), Executive Director of Professional Development for BU's BEST, to make an introduction.

12. If I give my consent to apply is my trainee guaranteed an EXPERIENCE?

There is no guarantee that trainees who have consent will be chosen by an EXPERIENCE provider since each provider will make the final placement decision. If your trainee is selected you will both have to go over and sign a learning contact.

13. What does the internship application consist of?

The application process consists of two phases. 1) An internal evaluation wherein trainees are selected by BU's BEST EXPERIENCE team based on qualifications set by EXPERIENCE site, and 2) selection of the internal

candidates selected by EXPERIENCE site. Besides completing an online application, trainees must also submit the following documents as a single PDF file uploaded to the online application.

- a. Signed and scanned P.I. Consent Form (blank form available at: http://www.bu.edu/best/files/2015/12/BEST_PI_internship-agreement_v2.pdf).
- b. Tailored one or two page resume
- c. Summary page of a personality assessment

14. Is there a place I can go to learn more about BU's BEST?

You can visit the BU's BEST website at www.bu.edu/BEST

If you have a question that is not answered here please contact Dr. Chelsea Epler at bubest@bu.edu.

