

TAMS Summer Research Agreement for Summer 2024

This agreement, and corresponding Summer Research Application, pertains to TAMS students conducting summer research belonging to the following groups:

- Ongoing Summer Research – rising second-year TAMS students who have received a summer research scholarship.
- Early Research (ER) – newly admitted, incoming TAMS students who have received an early summer research scholarship
- TAMS Non-Scholarship Summer Research – TAMS students who are, without scholarship assistance, admitted to a UNT Research Lab for Summer 2024.

General Terms for All Summer Research

Accepting a TAMS Early Research Scholarship, or an ongoing Summer Research Scholarship, or a non-scholarship research position requires full-time participation in the ten-week summer session (May 20th - July 26th) for ongoing Summer Researchers; May 28th - July 26th for Early Summer Researchers). TAMS will enroll all summer researchers (whether or not they be on a TAMS summer scholarship) in a one-credit-hour graded Honors College course to document the summer of research and to provide students with access to the Rec Center, medical facilities, meal plans, and the libraries. All TAMS researchers must be enrolled in a one-credit course, whether or not the student has received a summer scholarship. TAMS summer researchers **MAY NOT** enroll in additional academic courses.

TAMS will grant **NO** exceptions for family travel plans, even if the travel has been scheduled months in advance and/or for which airline tickets have already been purchased. Such excursions are commitments that you have already made and that necessarily preclude participation in the summer-research program. Travel consideration for reasons pertaining to critical family illness and/or family bereavement will receive case-by-case consideration.

There will be no research-mentor substitutions. Students must work exclusively in the lab of the research mentor with whom they contracted in their scholarship-application form. Stated otherwise, there will be no “dropping” one professor, picking up another, and retaining the scholarship. Nor may students work in two labs concurrently.

Additional Terms for Summer Research Scholarship Recipients

Students who receive a TAMS summer scholarship and who then leave the research commitment prior to July 26 to take advantage of a different summer opportunity (whether academic or familial [for example, family vacation or travel]) will be responsible for having their scholarship fully withdrawn and for then personally paying all bills that have accrued (for example, but not limited to, housing, dining services, or tuition). The only exceptions will be withdrawal from the summer programs for documented illness or for bereavement. In those cases, dilemmas will be handled on an individual basis.

To apply for the Summer Research *scholarship* of 2024, students must have a UNT GPA of at least 3.25 for the Fall 2023 semester

Residency, Transportation, and Travel

All summer researchers (including non-scholarship research students) must live in McConnell Hall. Scholarship recipients must apply their scholarship toward tuition, fees, room and board (a mandatory meal plan). Non-scholarship TAMS students must pay to live in McConnell Hall, purchase a meal plan, and abide by all rules applicable to scholarship holders.

No summer researcher may have an automobile on campus (this privilege commences in the fall for second-year students). Thus, TAMS Scholarship Researchers may not drive themselves to or from campus and may not accept automobile rides from anybody other than a parent, a university official, or a driver assigned by the parent. Please contact Russ Stukel (Russ.Stukel@unt.edu) or Ben Warren (Ben.Warren@unt.edu) for questions. All research students will sign out, and then sign back in, prior to and following the closed weekend, in a manner consistent with long-semester protocol.

Students must conduct research on either the UNT central campus or at Discovery Park. In the latter case, students must travel on the city buses serving both campuses.

Summer-research students will have a “closed weekend” on the weekend of July 5 (including July 4). This means that McConnell Hall will close for that weekend and no residence hall staff will be available. Students will need to be off the wing by 5pm on July 3rd (following lab commitment) and McConnell Hall will close at 7pm. Students need to return by 10pm, but no earlier than 2pm on Sunday, July 7th.

Students, with the consent of their research professors and approval from their parents/guardians, may select two “travel weekends.” These weekends must be requested via “tamsiam” and will commence on Friday (following lab commitment) and terminate by curfew on Sunday. The student may choose to utilize the travel-option weekends for personal reasons, including the taking of standardized tests. Summer researchers will **NOT** receive permission to be absent earlier in the week, in excess of the two travel weekends and the closed weekend of July 4-7.

Students may not petition for at-home residence to assume extensive oversight responsibilities for family members. While we regret the possible need for such commitment, it is inconsistent with the residential experience we make available to students, relative to laboratory presence, interaction at meals, weekend seminars, and participation in the social community of young researchers. Students should not petition to attend any seminars, sessions, or personal-development programs beyond those associated with the TAMS summer research program.

Students whose parents drive them home for medical visits must bring an M.D.’s/D.O.’s note on return. The emphasis is on M.D./D.O. or an assigned P.A., and not on any other health-professions personnel. Students must email PDFs of such notes (minus specific medical details) to Lily.Geilhausen@unt.edu

Tracking Research Time and Other Requirements

Students will work 35-40 hours per week on the research project, or longer if the PI deems mentored-weekend work requisite for the needs of his/her lab. Saturdays will feature beyond-the-lab colloquia and mandatory attendance. Similar to regular class attendance policies during Fall and Spring, students who are absent from or arrive more than fifteen (15) minutes late to a Summer Saturday session will receive FIVE (5) Academic points. Saturday events will last 3 hours, including a one-hour break for lunch. Students will be excused from the Saturday events on their two travel weekends and on the closed weekend. Saturday attendance at seminars will be taken.

Those 35-40 hours per week must include at least 30 hours of personal-contact time with a research mentor, post-docs, or graduate students. The remaining hours must occur in a specified lab or library, per the decision of the PI. Students conducting computational research must similarly, for the purpose of

dialogue, be in the presence of a PI, post-doc, or graduate student for 30 hours per week. In accord with safety protocol, students may not be alone in labs containing hazardous materials.

Remaining hours of computational research will occur either in the PIs lab, or in a library of the PIs choosing—not in a residence hall.

Students will record their research hours, on a weekly and monitored basis, into an Excel Spreadsheet template for the review of TAMS administrators and PIs. The logs must be submitted, via Canvas, by 11:59 pm on each Sunday of the 10-week summer program, including “closed” and travel weekends. Students who do not submit logs by the deadline will receive Academic points on a sliding scale—not to exceed five (5) points per incident—based on the “degree of lateness” of students’ submission. Documented medical excuses will receive consideration.

Faculty mentors must attest to the fact that the preceding personal-contact hours (as opposed to “remote” contact) will be in play; otherwise, the student will be ineligible for a summer-research scholarship, even following receipt of this notice and contract.

On a weekly basis, *Early Researchers* will have dinner, at Bruce Hall, with one of more deans. These dinners will emphasize etiquette and communication skills. Students who enroll in Early Research should be willing to accept constructive criticism, for the benefit of their short- and long-term success in and beyond the campus environment. All summer research students, in turn, will receive invitations to attend periodic luncheons with the deans and TAMS staff members.

Enrollment Conditions and Impacts of Withdrawal or Grade of “F”

Students who withdraw from the Early-Research Summer Scholarship Program after accepting the invitation to participate (for reasons other than health) are disqualified from applying, during the next academic year, for a TAMS Summer Research Scholarship.

The TAMS administration reserves the right to terminate the Summer Research Scholarship if a student’s PI reports a pattern of underperformance or the failure of a student to meet the expectations of the lab. Financial balances will be the responsibility of the student. The student will receive a grade of **F** and therefore be in peril of dismissal from TAMS. Stated otherwise, research is a privilege that demands students to be “all in.” Summer research is not an occasion for nominal commitment with the goal of earning a letter of recommendation.

Safety Guidelines

Students should have their phones set in such manner as to receive Eagle Alert notifications.

It is expected that summer researchers walking on campus after sunset (but before curfew) must walk in groups of two or more for reasons pertaining to personal safety.

General Guidelines and Requirements

The number of persons living in a residence-hall room will not exceed that stipulated by UNT’s division of housing, and students will abide by all TAMS and UNT residential guidelines. All TAMS summer researchers (whether or not receiving a scholarship) will live on campus and will abide by the same rules (as set forth in this document) and related codes of conduct published by TAMS.

All students must abide by curfew. Students should be in their rooms a few minutes prior to 11:00 pm to allow the staff to perform the check-in.

The summer scholarship will arrive in installments, contingent on excellent progress, as assessed by the mentor. Moreover, students whose PIs are in a position to pay them for their research must report that advantage to TAMS (via email to james.duban@unt.edu; lily.geilhausen@unt.edu; Cortney.Watson@unt.edu; and eric.gruver@unt.edu, so that an appropriate adjustment in their TAMS Summer Scholarship may come into play. No student will earn more than \$5,000 (total) for the summer of research.

By **11:59 pm June 17**, students will submit to their canvas site a **mentor-approved** 150-200 word, single-spaced description of summer research and outcomes-to-date. Students must compose the summary in such manner as to provide the generalist with reasonable understanding of, and appreciation for, their research and contributions to their fields.

By **11:59 pm July 22**, students will submit to canvas a PowerPoint (via authorized templates) of the prospective poster-presentation that they will present on Scholars Day, in April. They may revise and update these posters throughout the upcoming academic year, in accord with further research. Nonetheless, the poster slide should comply with criteria for the Scholars Day exhibition (early April) at which students are obliged to present. Students will receive PDF or PowerPoint templates to guide them in poster presentations.

Additionally, all TAMS summer-scholarship recipients are required to submit a proposal to represent TAMS at UNT Research Day, in October 2024. They must clear their abstract application with their PIs and with Dr. Duban. All TAMS summer researchers are *required to present at Scholars Day in April 2025*.

Students will ask their professors either to grant or deny permission to display posters (this is out of consideration for the PI's intellectual-property rights). In such cases, the Associate Dean for Research will work with the student and PI to arrange an in-lab or in-house presentation of outcomes.

We also encourage students to apply their research toward Regeneron and Goldwater applications, if students meet the criteria for either or both of those competitions. Such applications reflect admirably on the student, PIs, TAMS, and UNT. Stated otherwise, the students "give back" in these venues. Goldwater applicants should work progressively on their applications throughout the 10-week summer session, mindful of the progress expectations circulated by the Honors College Office of Research. Such incremental progress (facilitated by PI feedback and that from Dr. Duban) will allow them to complete their first drafts prior to the end of the 10- week summer session.

As representatives of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, students must be punctual, respectful, and compliant at all times, whether in a laboratory or residence hall setting, as their conduct reflects on the Academy. To that end, students agree to abide by all TAMS residence hall policies, and travel-to-and-from-home rules, as specified elsewhere in the application literature. Students will be accountable for online demeanor inconsistent with the comportment values of TAMS or of UNT students generally. Students must also abide by all University and TAMS rules, regulations, and policies. Breaking laws, including consumption of alcohol, use of marijuana, or other narcotics, or even being in the company of those so engaged—will result in dismissal from the TAMS program. A dismissed student will be required to reimburse the full value of the research scholarship and may have additional punitive sanctions by the UNT Dean of Students' Office or by local law enforcement.

Failure to complete any aspect of the scholarship requirements a grade of **F** for the summer session and, for scholarship recipients, the cancellation of the TAMS summer research scholarship. In such cases, students may be dismissed from TAMS and be responsible for any financial balances accrued to date.

Student Signature

***I agree to the above rules and regulations.**

First Name _____

Last Name _____

UNT ID # _____

UNT Email Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Guardian Signature

***I, as a guardian of the student on this agreement, agree to the above rules and regulations.**

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Relationship to Student _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____