Molecular Biophysics Training Program (MBTP) at Northwestern University

Participating Pre-Doctoral Graduate Programs

Eligibility
Pre-doctoral students from participating graduate programs in their 2nd and 3rd years of graduate training at the time of appointment, conducting biomedically relevant biophysics research are eligible. The traineeship will provide a stipend, tuition, and some funds for yearly travel to a scientific meeting.

Curricular Requirements
In addition to completing the requirements of their parent graduate program, trainees must take three core courses in Biophysics, an ethics course, a rigor & responsibility course, a structural biology workshop, and an elective. These requirements are mandatory, no exceptions will be made.

Core Courses:
1. IBiS Molecular Biophysics (IBiS 401; Sp24) or DGP Structural Basis of Signal Transduction (DGP 466)
2. Biophysical Methods (IBiS 409; pending)
3. Quantitative Biology (IBiS 410; F23)

Ethics Course:
Choose one of Ethics in Biological Research (IBiS 423; F22), Colloquium on Integrity in Biomedical Research (DGP 494), Responsible Conduct of Research Training (GEN ENG 519/CHEM 519; Sp23), Rigor & Reproducibility course (IBiS 421; Su24)

Structural Biology Workshop: 3-day summer workshop covering NMR, crystallography, & cryoEM (Su24)

Electives: Visit the website http://www.biophysics.northwestern.edu for a list of approved elective courses

Program Activities
Molecular Biophysics Club: Monthly, Third Wednesdays, Noon, Cook 3118
Presentations by a graduate student or post-doc from participating preceptor labs

Evanston Molecular Biophysics Journal Club: Monthly, Fourth Tuesdays, Noon, Cook 3118
Student-run journal clubs with presentations by participating preceptor lab members

Chicago Stucture Function Journal Club: Monthly, Second Fridays, 1-2pm Morton 7-660

Molecular Biophysics Seminar Series: Monthly, First Thursdays, 12:30pm, Pancoe Auditorium
Distinguished non-NU speakers hosted by preceptors followed by lunchtime meetings with speaker

Research-in-Progress Meetings: Monthly, Second Tuesdays, 12:30pm, Pancoe 4103
Trainee meetings with the Steering Committee and Mentors describing their research progress

Annual Biophysics Symposium: Third Friday of September, 9am-5pm, Pancoe Auditorium
A full-day event with 5 distinguished speakers, presentations by students and postdocs, poster session

Trainee Nomination, Selection, & Expectations
Students are nominated by preceptors over the summer each year. Nominations are evaluated by an ad hoc committee comprising program preceptors.

Specific Expectations of Supported Trainees:
- Complete MBTP curricular requirements and remain in good academic standing
- Participate in the MBTP-sponsored activities listed above, present poster at Biophysics Symposium every year and give a talk at least once at the Biophysics Club or the Biophysics Symposium during their tenure at Northwestern
- Present oral research updates (twice a year) at Research-in-Progress meetings
- Provide yearly written research reports documenting progress
- Provide career plans/ updates to career plans (Individual Development Plans or IDPs) every year