

## 2023 Summer Research Trainee Program (SRTP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document serves to answer YOUR questions about SRTP. If you find that your question is not addressed in this document, please email [srtp@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:srtp@mgh.harvard.edu) and we will be glad to assist.

We are here to help you!

Please note: the details below are subject to change and will be determined and constrained by the MGH policies established due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### General Questions

#### 1. What is the goal of SRTP?

The goal of SRTP is to inspire students who are underrepresented in medicine (UiM) to consider a career in academic medicine by immersing them in cutting-edge research opportunities.

#### 2. What distinguishes SRTP from other summer research programs?

The Massachusetts General Hospital (“MGH”) SRTP is unique for many reasons. It provides:

- A personalized research experience:
  - o Once accepted to the program, we work diligently to match students with an MGH-based researcher in one of the student’s top three areas of research interest.
  - o SRTP offers an opportunity to conduct novel research in a vast variety of biomedical science and health policy research areas.
- Hospital-based exposure:
  - o MGH is the largest HMS teaching hospital and the #1 NIH-funded academic medical center in the country.
  - o [MGH is consistently named a top hospital in America by U.S. News & World Report](#)
- A structured program curriculum that also includes:
  - o Weekly faculty-led didactics
  - o Career development sessions and exposure to leadership in academic medicine
- Development of scientific writing and presentation skills, including abstract writing and a final presentation of a research project
- Individualized mentorship, guiding students toward the next step in their careers
- Social outings to Red Sox and local venues
- Networking opportunities with residents, fellows, faculty, and MGH Youth Scholars
- Free housing near Harvard Medical School A student stipend of \$5000
- An amazing experience and value! (Program valued at > \$10,000.00)

### Eligibility

#### 3. Who is considered underrepresented in medicine (UiM) and the biomedical sciences?

The **National Institute of Health (NIH)** released a diversity statement encouraging institutions to prioritize opportunities in biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences for individuals from groups identified as underrepresented. Based on national data analyzed by the National Science

Foundation, the following racial and ethnic groups are underrepresented in biomedical research and health-related sciences: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

For SRTP, MGH follows the definition of underrepresented in medicine and biomedical research (UiM) of the NIH and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). UiM groups may include Latino/ Hispanic (including Brazilian), African American/Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaskan Natives, among others. **Please note that Asians are not considered UiM, unless they are underrepresented relative to the population MGH serves, e.g., Cambodian or Laotian.** (Sources: [AAMC](#), [NIH](#), and the [National Science Foundation](#))

**4. I’m Pakistani/Indian/Middle Eastern/White/Eastern European/East Asian. Am I eligible?**

While we accept all applications, the program is rooted in the mission of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and aims to reach UiM students, as defined above in Question 3.

**5. Do you consider someone from a low socioeconomic background and/or someone who is disabled to be underrepresented in medicine?**

Yes. While we accept all applications, the program is rooted in the mission of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and aims to reach UiM students, as defined above in Question 3.

**6. Level of education/training eligibility *at the time of application*: Yes or No**

- If I am in one of the left categories below, am I eligible to apply?

If I...	Am I eligible?
• am a freshman or sophomore in college	• <b>No</b>
• will be a Junior in college	• <b>No</b>
• will be a Senior in the Fall of 2022 or graduating Senior	• <b>Yes</b>
• am in a master’s program	• <b>Yes</b>
• am in a post-baccalaureate program	• <b>Yes</b>
• am in my gap year before medical school	• <b>Yes</b>
• am in a school outside of the US or Puerto Rico	• <b>No</b>

**7. Can a non-US citizen apply?**

Eligibility requires applicants to be US citizens or permanent residents.

**8. I’m not eligible for SRTP because I am a college freshman or sophomore. Can you suggest any other summer programs?**

Several other Harvard-affiliated summer programs with different eligibility requirements can be found online by searching for “Harvard Summer Research Programs”.

**9. Is there a GPA requirement?**

We select the SRTP cohort through a holistic review process. While there is no minimum GPA, the national pool of applicants is very competitive. The profile part of the application will ask for your GPA, but please be aware that the answer will not impact your application review.

**10. Do I need to have health insurance during the program?**

If accepted to the program, you will be working at MGH and thus will need to submit proof of health insurance coverage. As an employer, MGH must comply with all federal and state law health insurance requirements.

**11. Is prior research experience required?**

No previous research experience is required for admission to SRTP.

**12. What are the specific qualities that make a candidate successful?**

**We are looking for students who have the following qualities:**

- Students who follow and comply with all the application requirements and eligibility criteria. Please review these closely.
- Mature students who are looking for an opportunity to show that they have what it takes to succeed in high-level research
- Students who are professional, punctual, and who can participate fully in all aspects of the program
- Students who are assets to the program and the other participating students

**Please *only* apply if:**

- Your expectations align with ours! SRTP is an exciting and demanding program, which will require your full-time attention and dedication. We have high expectations of our students, and we encourage you to have high expectations of the program.
- You can attend the mandatory 8-week program period. Exceptions may be made if you have extenuating circumstances, such as conflicts with medical school dates.

**Application Process** *(including Recommendation Letters, Medical School Letters of Good Standing, and Transcripts)*

**13. How do I apply?**

Apply online by clicking [here](#). Make sure you answer all the questions on the profile part as all the questions are mandatory for our program. Then go to the start my application and select the **MGH SRTP 2023 cycle**.

**14. Should the letters of recommendation be from science professors only?**

No, not necessarily. They can be from faculty members, laboratory advisors, or academic mentors who have worked closely with you.

**15. When do I need a letter of good standing?**

Only medical students whose school does not provide transcripts need a letter of good standing.

**16. Do you accept online management programs for official transcripts?**

No.

**17. Where do I send my transcripts?**

Upload your official or unofficial transcript to your SRTP Application System account; if you encounter issues, please email [srtp@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:srtp@mgh.harvard.edu).

**18. Can I just email you a copy of my grades?**

No, we require official transcripts from your schools.

**19. Can my supplemental materials be sent in BEFORE I complete my online application?**

Yes

## Admitted Students

### Housing

**20. Where do students live?**

Housing is provided to the student by the program, at no cost to the student. All students participating in the program will be housed in the same facility and the location will be near MGH, to optimize the experience. Although we are currently finalizing the exact location for this year, the value of the housing for the summer is valued at over \$4,000 per student.

### Funding and Travel Reimbursement

**21. Are SRTP students funded and if so, what does the funding cover?**

SRTP is funded by hospital sources and does not receive any federal grants. Students are provided with a one-time stipend of \$5,000 during the first weeks of the program. This is intended to cover daily expenses, including food. Please consider your banking options for depositing your stipend as not all banks are represented in Boston.

If you are funded by a federal grant at your home institution (MARC for example), you are still eligible to participate in SRTP. This does not mean you receive more funding than the other students. We split the difference with your college to reach \$5,000.

**22. Do you pay for travel to and from Boston?**

We have a set amount of funds to help those in financial need with their travel expenses. **To be considered**, students must provide a written statement of request and their most current FAFSA.

**23. Is there a meal plan?**

While no meal plan is available, there is a grocery store nearby, as well as a farmers' market and many affordable dining options near your housing. Meals are always provided during the weekly didactic sessions, as well as at other special CDI-sponsored events during the summer.

**Program Details**

**24. Where can students find information about previous SRTP projects and potential research areas at MGH?**

Information about former participants and their projects is available on our [SRTP page](#). Information about all MGH research can be found online: [MGH Research Institute](#).

**25. Do I need to attend the full eight weeks?**

Yes, the eight weeks are mandatory. We understand some medical schools extend longer than the start date of Monday, June 5, or start earlier than the last day of Friday, July 28. In these cases, we may be able to accommodate your schedule upon request (while still completing 8 weeks of research). You would still need to attend orientation. Otherwise, we expect all students to start on June 5 and end on July 28.

**26. Is orientation mandatory?**

Yes, there is a **REQUIRED ORIENTATION** that will take place during the first one or two days of the program. During these days of your summer experience, we cover an extensive amount of important information, as well as host panels with former students and faculty. Please note that before orientation; you must have completed all mandatory MGH paperwork and training.

**27. I want to work with a specific faculty member - should I identify them in my research interest section?**

We encourage students to NOT identify a specific researcher by name. We work diligently on matching students and preceptors to find the best overall learning research environment for the student. Additionally, please do not contact specific researchers/physician-scientists on your own.