



Cellular and Molecular Biology

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Rotation Decisions: Questions for Faculty

Research:

- What thesis projects are available?
- What projects are currently being pursued and by who (graduate students, post docs, technicians, etc.)?
- How collaborative are the projects?
 - You should be able to get a sense of this by the number of authors on lab publications

Mentoring:

- What are your expectations of rotating students?
- Who would I work with during the rotation?
- What have prior graduate students accomplished (publications, seminars, fellowships, time to graduate, awards, post doc, jobs, etc.)?
- What is your mentoring style?
 - This question should allow faculty to address research independence, training in disciplinary research, training in oral and written communication, training in grant and paper review, and professional development.
- What are your expectations of graduate students?
 - This question should allow faculty to address questions such as the expected number of work hours and the expected number/type of publications to fulfill the PhD requirements.
- Does the lab participate in a lab meeting and/or journal club? How often? Who is involved?
- Who does the lab collaborate with?
- What seminars does the lab attend on campus?
- Do graduate students have opportunities to present their research at national and international meetings?

Logistics:

- How many positions are available for a new graduate student?
- What is the status of funding for these positions? If funding is “pending,” what exactly does that mean (grant submitted, grant waiting for score, etc.)?
- How many other students will be rotating?
- Is preference given to students in particular departments or programs?