
Want to do summer research in 2022? In the field of atmospheric chemistry? And live in Paris for a month?

Who: All HMC students who are US citizens from all majors (rising sophomores too!). Two students will be selected each year.

What: Research in atmospheric chemistry (see timeline below for involvement)

When: starting in mid Spring 2022 with an optional paid research experience, continuing through summer with a paid experience (10 weeks). This is the final offering of this program.

Where: HMC Chemistry department and the University of Paris in Créteil

Why: Because undergraduate research is a transformative experience, because air pollution and climate change are important topics you want to learn more about, because travel to Paris sounds awesome, because you heard Professor Hawkins is really fun to work with...

Timeline of activities:

When	What
January and early February 2021	Students are recruited to apply
Feb 21 to March 6	Applications are submitted
March 6	Initial offers
After spring break (optional)	Participate in research 1 afternoon/week
May 23-July 29	10 week experience at HMC including 4 week – 6 week travel to France (where measurements take place)
Research ends July 29, 2022	

How to apply:

Visit the [HMC Chemistry Research page](#) or the [HMC Undergraduate Research Opportunities Page](#). Questions? Contact Prof. Hawkins at lhawkins@g.hmc.edu.

****IMPORTANT**** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, the viability of travel will be assessed until we actually travel (in 2021 we were cleared 10 days in advance...). If travel is deemed unsafe or if the College prohibits travel, opportunities for work at HMC will be made available.

Frequently asked questions:

Will I have to pay for airfare?

No, the travel expenses, including airfare and housing, are covered.

Will I have to pay for living expenses while in France?

Some, but not more than at HMC. I will buy each student a full access metro pass and provide a modest supplement to the normal summer stipend to help cover the most expensive food costs. As with research at HMC, you are expected to cover most of your living expenses, so the modest supplement is not enough itself to live on.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen?

Unfortunately, yes, the NSF IRES program requires that participants are U.S. citizens. There are other research positions in chemistry, including in my lab, that are open to non-citizens.

What will our days be like?

This depends somewhat on where end up doing our research (lab or in the field). Work in the lab will be the priority on weekdays, from 8:30 or 9am to 6p. Some days will be long and some will be short, depending on the research. Nights and weekends will be free for sightseeing.

The lab is crowded and dirty (and fun!) so you should be prepared to work hard, and learn a lot.

The field is entirely different. There are no such things as "off times" but of course down time will be provided. We would live outside of Paris, in a rural area and we would be studying ambient air quality.

What will my job be?

When equipment is running, you are responsible for looking at the equipment at least every 20-30 minutes if you are not sitting right in front of it. It is common for equipment to fail, and noticing sooner will save precious data (that we flew all the way here for).

What if I've never done research before?

Then you're in good company! There is no expectation of prior research experience.

What are you looking for in successful applicants?

I am looking for passionate students who are organized, patient, and have good attitudes in the face of challenging conditions and new situations. Successful applicants will demonstrate they are eager to learn, and willing to work hard to learn new things.