

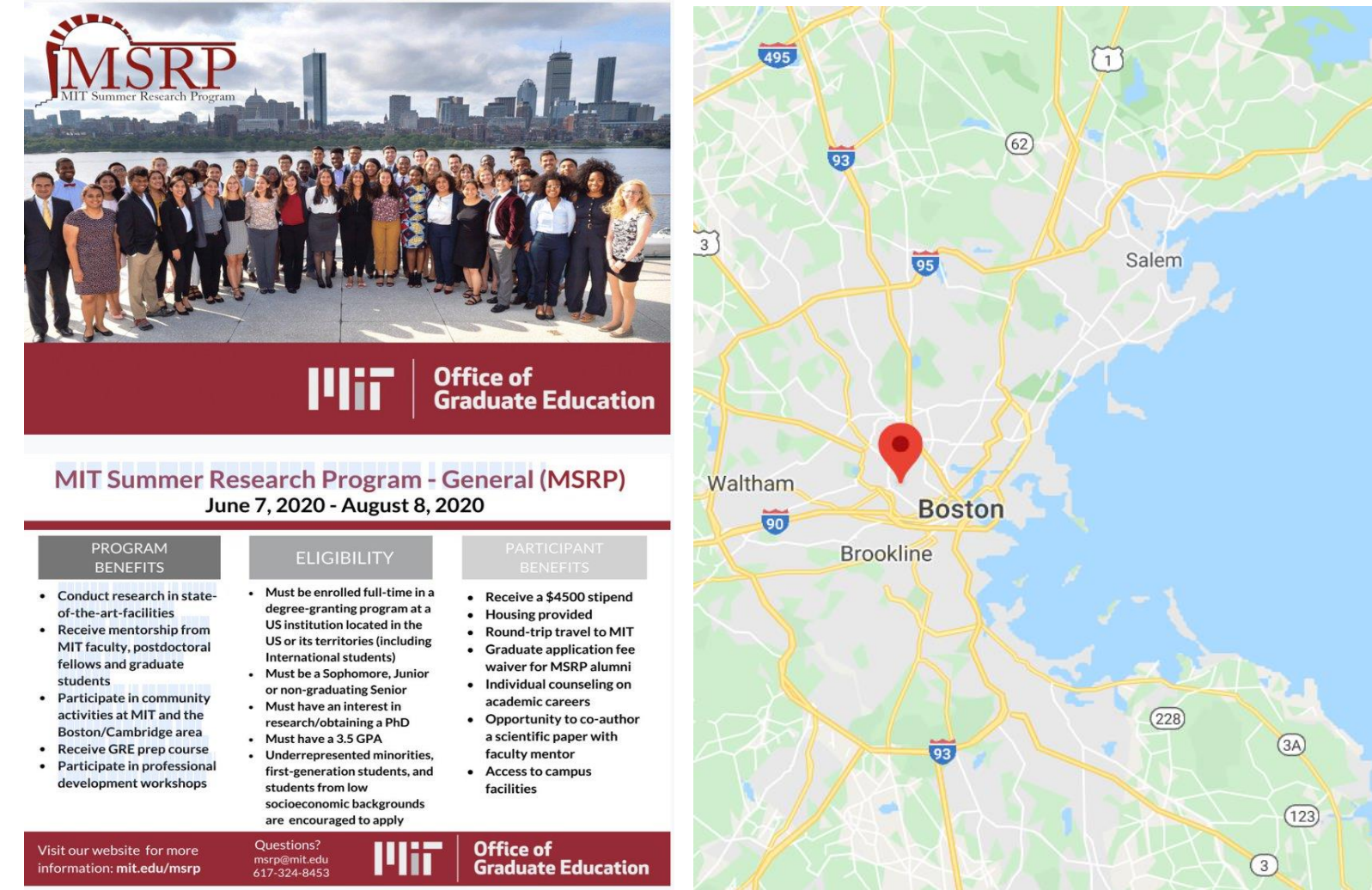


Drinking from the fire hose at MIT Favour Obuseh, Biomedical Engineering Spring 2021

Professional
development

SUMMARY

At Massachusetts institute of technology, through the summer research program, MSRP, I was able to experience what it meant to drink directly from a firehose. Through intensive training from my research mentors as well as professional development seminars and workshops, I was able to learn about the PhD experience. Over the course of 9 weeks, I was pushed to try new ideas on how to use new systems to express Plasmodium falciparum proteins without fear of failing. This experience helped me to grow in self-confidence as well as resilience. I was able to express and purify three Plasmodium proteins. Through the tedious process of protein expression, I learned that persistence plays a big role in research. The end goal of the research was to produce a novel antimalarial drug, as the disease malaria is responsible for the death of 500,000 people a year, mostly kids under the age of 5.



SPICES

This experience covers key aspects of Professional Development. With my goal being to gain admission to a PhD program in the fall of 2021. Through this internship, I was able to develop critical research skills such as protein purification, genetic recombination as well as professional preparation in terms of scientific communication and networking.

HERBS

This experience encompassed resilience and benevolence. Protein purification was a very ardent task, but I was forced to develop resilience to failed experiments while striving to develop new methods. Furthermore, I was delighted to participate in a project partially funded by the Bill and Melinda gates foundation on eradicating malaria, a disease that affects over 500k people yearly who have limited resources to combat malaria.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the MSRP program, I learned how to leverage the knowledge received in terms of getting a job, admission into graduate school. I was provided an opportunity to take the GRE preparation course, a great learning experience. I also learned how to think independently, how to go about finding solutions to problems that cannot be googled.

IMPACT

*Through this experience, I established multiple connections. I was able to present the research I conducted, at **three national conferences**. This research was what cemented my aspiration to get a PhD. I could see how my work translated into real world applications and the importance of having a PhD to be able to conduct research that impacts the life outcomes of the less fortunate*

ADVICE

If you are trying to get an internship, make sure to seek advice on the application process. When at an internship, make sure to establish meaningful connections and leave a meaningful impression on the host company or institution.

