

# **Addendum to the SIR Student Handbook**

## **ADDENDUM 1**

### **Scientific Inquiry and Research (SIR) Guidelines for Remote Learning - Academic Year 2020-2021**

Due to the pandemic, existing SIR Guidelines have been modified as follows for the 2020-2021 academic year:

1. There will be three “on-campus” SIR courses at IMSA that will continue from last year:
  - a. Drug Discovery course run by Dr. John Thurmond
  - b. IMSA-CMS course run by Dr. Peter Dong
  - c. Econometric Analysis in Social Science course run by Dr. Patrick Kearney
2. There will be no other new “on-campus” courses running at this time.
3. Faculty and staff can mentor students on independent (self-arranged) projects, the topic of which may or may not be related to both previously run on and off-campus SIR courses.
4. Faculty and staff will not get any release time for mentoring student SIRs.
5. It is advised that each individual mentor not take on more than 5 students, due to the amount of work involved, but this is just a guideline and it is up to each individual mentor as to how many students they wish to mentor.
6. Off- campus SIRs need to be cleared through the SIR office before students begin work.
7. Off- campus SIRs need to be remote, the SIR Team cannot approve students working in off-campus labs while under the IMSA umbrella due to health and safety risks from the current pandemic.
8. Whether on-campus or off-campus, SIR projects need to be meaningful, and include the components of a written scientific paper, and presentation of the final project at IMSAloqium.
9. “Meaningful” with respect to SIR projects is defined as a project that includes, but is not limited to reviewing literature, working on applying the knowledge gained to creating a new and innovative product, theory, proposal or hypothesis and furthering the scientific method through focused work culminating in a presentation at IMSAloqium. Reading a few scientific papers for an off-campus advisor will not constitute an SIR project. Upholding and executing the scientific method is what distinguishes an SIR project from an independent study. Although going to a lab and collecting data may not be possible, meaningful work could constitute analyzing data that has been collected by others in the lab.
10. All efforts will be made to place students in SIRs, either on or off campus, in an equitable manner – any student wishing to do an SIR will be able to do so. All students will have equal representation in choosing an SIR project. Every student will have a fair chance of the SIR project of their choice.

The SIR Team (Dr. Sowmya Anjur, Dr. Dave DeVol, Ms. Cathleen Cunz), Dr. José Torres and Dr. Comfort Akwaji-Anderson

## **ADDENDUM 2**

### **Dates for SIR on I days AY 2020-2021**

**SIR will be held on all I days as listed below:**

**SIR FY21 (AY2020-21) Inquiry day schedule**

**Date**

8/26/2020

9/2/2020

9/16/2020

9/23/2020

9/30/2020

10/7/2020

10/14/2020

10/21/2020

10/28/2020

11/4/2020

11/11/2020

11/18/2020

12/2/2020

12/9/2020

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1/27/2021

2/3/2021

2/10/2021

2/17/2021

2/26/2021

3/3/2021

3/10/2021

3/17/2021

3/24/2021

4/7/2021

4/14/2021 IMSAloquium Practice

**4/21/2021 IMSAloquium**

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## **ADDENDUM 3**

### **SIR Deadlines**

#### **Deadlines for AY2020-2021 SIR**

Start Date for SIR: The official start date this year is Wednesday, Sept. 16. If mentors wish to start earlier, that is fine, please notify the SIR office.

#### **Deadline to officially enroll in SIR for AY 2020-2021**

The SIR office can accommodate students interested in signing up for SIR projects until Oct. 16, 2020.

#### **Schedule of Assignments to be submitted:**

##### **SIR Agreement form:**

This form should be signed by student and parent no later than Sept. 16, 2020 and submitted on the SIR Resources Canvas classroom.

##### **SIR Proposal:**

SIR proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until Nov. 13, 2020. An SIR Proposal (no more than 2 paragraphs) should be submitted only for new projects. If you already have an SIR project registered with this office, you do not need to submit a proposal again.

##### **Annotated bibliography**

Students enrolled in an SIR project need to submit an annotated bibliography before Dec. 1, 2020. If you are working on the same project as last year, you should add 3-4 references to your existing bibliography and submit your revised document. If you are working on a new SIR project this year, please submit an annotated bibliography with a minimum of 5-6 references.

##### **Progress report**

A progress report of about one paragraph is due to this office before Dec. 15, 2020. The progress report will include an update on your project and the direction of your future work.

##### **Abstract**

An abstract of your work should be submitted before March 15, 2021. The abstract should not exceed 200 words.

### **Presentations**

The SIR office would like student presentations to be completed and submitted before April 14, 2021.

### **IMSAlloqium Practice Day**

Practice Day for IMSAlloqium is on April 14, 2021.

### **IMSAlloqium**

This year, IMSAlloqium will be held on April 21, 2021.

### **Final paper**

A copy of your final paper should be submitted no later than May 15, 2021.

## **Calendar Reference List**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
Start	Sept. 16
Agreement form	Sept. 16
Deadline to officially enroll	Oct. 16
Intro/Proposal	Nov. 13
Ann. bibliography (new projects)	Dec. 1
Progress Report	Dec. 15
Abstract	Mar. 15
Presentation	Apr. 14
IMSAlloqium	Apr. 21
Final Paper	May 15