

What's Happening @ BSCP

January 2021 Edition

January Updates

[BSCP COVID-19 EDUCATIONAL RELIEF FUND](#)

Did you know BSCP just launched a fund to assist students/fellows whose education is being impacted by COVID-19? Thank you to Life Science Cares and our anonymous sponsor for supporting this effort!

[BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS STUDENT CONFERENCE](#)

Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

[Application Deadline](#): February 12, 2021

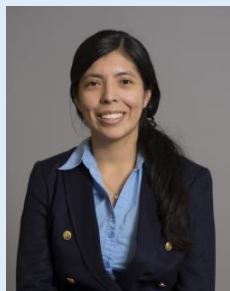
[NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM](#)

Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2021

[Click Titles to Learn More!](#)

Ask an Advisor

Applying to Summer Research Programs and Making the Most of the Program



Summer research internships are a great opportunity for high school, undergraduate students, and even students at other stages to acquire or continue to strengthen research skills, network with colleagues in the scientific community, and acquire a better idea as to whether or not students are interested in a career in research. Research programs can take place at a student's home institution or at another institution. Students pursuing a research program at another institution also have the opportunity to see what other research environments are like. These programs offer valuable experiences for students interested in applying to graduate or professional programs. Many summer programs tend to take place over the course of six to ten weeks. The majority of summer research program application deadlines tend to be in January and February. Programs may offer a financial stipend, housing, and travel, and students applying should keep that in mind as they search for various summer research

opportunities. Students can find summer research internships through various websites highlighted below or through individual colleges, universities, or company websites.

While many summer research internships were cancelled last year, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we highly encourage students to apply to summer research internships this year. Programs this summer may be virtual, or a hybrid of virtual and in-person. If you are applying to research internships, you can reach out to program directors to confirm that their program will take place and to get an idea of the format of the program in summer 2021. Although students miss the opportunity to have a hands-on research experience, a virtual program is an opportunity for professional development and focus on strengthening skills relevant to the career of interest, such as critical reading, writing, and oral communication. Before applying, you should verify that you fulfill eligibility requirements for the program.

It is important to prepare to apply to multiple summer research internships as many programs have a limited number of positions and can be competitive. You should prepare the following materials to ensure that you submit a strong application:

Transcript(s):

Applications tend to request a recent copy of an unofficial transcript from any colleges or universities that students have attended.

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Statement:

A statement highlighting the rationale for applying to the research program is an important part of the application. The statement is an opportunity for students to share why they are interested in a research internship and how the opportunity aligns with their career goals. Students should mention research interests and discuss previous research experience. The statement is also an opportunity for the students to share information about themselves. Some programs may ask for a single statement, while other programs may have students submit short answers addressing the aforementioned topics. We recommend that students share their statement with a mentor who is able to provide feedback prior to its submission for programs, if possible.

Letters of recommendation:

Research internships tend to request two to three letters of recommendation as part of the application. You can ask mentors, teachers/professors, or research advisor(s) if they would be able to write a letter of recommendation for you. You should give recommenders enough time to write your letter. If this is the first time your recommender learns of your interest in research, you should provide some context as to why you are interested in pursuing the research opportunity. We recommend that you share your statement, a resume, and program information to help your recommenders write a strong letter on your behalf. If you have research experience from your home institution, you should ask your research mentor for a letter.

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Resume:

Some programs require a resume, a one to two page document highlighting research experience, other activities and relevant skills. You should ask mentors or professors for feedback on your resume. If your high school or college has a career center, you can also visit the career center and ask for support with your resume.

What to Expect

Under normal conditions, students participate in hands-on laboratory research and/or clinical research during summer programs. In addition to research, some summer programs also provide career and professional development workshops, as well as opportunities to network with other program participants and professionals in science-related careers. Summer internships that have shifted the in-person program to a virtual program have focused on career and professional development, networking, projects that can be done remotely and/or developing quantitative and computational skills.

Advice for Making the Most of a Research Internship

The article below contains helpful information about expectations for a summer research internship and provides advice for a productive internship.

[Expectations and Making the Most of a Research Program](#)

It is always a good idea to be proactive and to read about the topic you will focus your summer research on before the start of the program when possible. If you know who you will be working with during the summer, you can read recently published scientific articles from your research mentor or their research team. Another suggestion is to schedule a meeting with your supervisor to discuss the project you will work on and to meet your mentor and have a better idea of the literature to read for your project. Once you know the lab you will be joining, don't hesitate to write an email to the faculty member to find out how you can best prepare for the upcoming internship. If you are worried about writing the email, get feedback from a current faculty advisor. Getting a head start will be helpful to develop a better and deeper understanding of your research project and sends a message to the lab you are joining that you are engaged and interested in the work you will be doing.

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It is important to understand program expectations as well as expectations of your day to day supervisors. It is important to have good communication with your supervisor, and we also encourage you to meet with the lab faculty director a few times during the program to discuss science, the progress of your research project, and your future plans. Keep in mind that you are also trying to make the best impression possible. Remember, faculty who agree to mentor a student in their research group want the best for their mentees and can guide you to help you reach your goals. In relation to this and good communication, ask for feedback on your work from internship advisors. This is an opportunity for you to identify areas of improvement as well as correct misperceptions. You are learning so be open to feedback.

Keep an open mind as you participate in a research program as there is a lot to learn from the experience. In addition to learning about a specific research topic of interest, virtual and in person programs can provide you opportunities to continue to develop skills important for research, such as reading skills, critical thinking, experimental design, scientific writing skills, oral communication skills, and computational skills. During the summer you may participate in journal clubs, meetings, or other research talks. These are great opportunities to learn about other fields, practice asking questions, and meet others working in a similar field. The in-person experience enables students to develop these skills while performing hands-on research to obtain answers to the questions asked in the research project. If you are unable to have an in-person summer program, you may also want to consider finding an opportunity at your home institution or an institution close to home.

Meet the members of the program and of your research group and learn about their research. Whether in person or virtual, you are joining a research community. While getting to know folks in a virtual format is not ideal and has its challenges, getting to know your program cohort as well as your lab mates is important. Apps such as Slack or Group Me are a great way to connect with each other and support each other. You are meeting your future colleagues, so take the opportunity to get to know each other and learn from each other. With regards to your lab, individuals in your research group can be wonderful sources of information about career goals, and you may learn from their career trajectories or life experiences. In addition to your immediate lab supervisor, other individuals in the group can also be sounding boards for technical and scientific questions. Research internships may require you to submit a proposal or give a poster or oral presentation, and research group members can also share their constructive feedback on a presentation or research proposal.

Research is a lot of fun. It is exciting to be one of the first to make a finding that can be shared with the rest of the community. If you participate in a research program, whether in person or virtual, make the most of it and most importantly, enjoy the experience!

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Resources and Highlights

- The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) invites you to join the [NHMA College Health Scholars Program](#). This program is a unique collaborative program with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), University of the Incarnate Word, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and the New York Academy of Medicine. **DEAD LINE TO REGISTER—1/29/21**
- The NSF INCLUDES Coordination Hub (Award HRD-1818635) is funded to lead and serve the NSF INCLUDES National Network. The Hub works to Advance the field by communicating discoveries, facilitating opportunities for broad engagement, and catalyzing action to improve STEM inclusion and equity. [Find Upcoming Coordination Hub led events here.](#)
- Get to know Regeneron – where passion meets purpose in biotech. As a leader in the industry, we offer career development and opportunities at all levels in every aspect of our business from invention to delivery of medicines to patients. [Join our talent community to learn more](#)
- VERTEX is hiring – Vertex is seeking talented individuals early in their careers to join our Process Development groups in Boston, Cambridge, MA, and Providence, RI. [Click here to apply for the Process Engineering Associate, Vertex Cell & Genetic Therapies \(VCGT\) position.](#) Deadline to apply is February 8th
- MassEdCo provides free college, career and financial aid information in the Boston area. Visit the website for information on how to received services virtually <https://www.massedco.org/locations/boston/boston-area-educational-opportunity-center>
- [NIH UGSP](#) Applications now open; deadline to apply is **February 8, 2021** (Monday) Stanford School of Medicine’s newly formed Propel Postdoctoral Scholars Program
- [Pipelines into Quantitative Aging Research \(POAR\) summer program in June 2021.](#) This summer, you can get hands-on research experience at the NYU School of Global Public Health. The Pipelines into Quantitative Aging Research Summer Program is a free, 6-week program at NYU that will immerse you in the field of public health through quantitative research methods and prepare you to succeed in graduate school.
- [NIH FIRST FOA’s Published](#)—The program aims to facilitate institutions in their building of a self-reinforcing community of scientists, through recruitment of a diverse cohort of early-career faculty who have a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence. The program seeks to have a positive impact on faculty development, retention, progression, and eventual promotion, as well as develop more inclusive environments. The program’s estimated budget is \$241 million over nine years, pending the availability of funds. The application due date for these **FOAs is March 1, 2021.**
- [STEAMiD](#) - STEAMid curates and recommends STEAM internships, scholarships, and fellowships to high school, undergraduate, post-bac, graduate, and postdoctoral students.

Save The Dates

Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

New England Science Symposium

Sunday, April 23 and 24 2021

Stay Connected

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www.bscp.org

