RISE Summer Internship Program for High School Students

2019 Program Description

What is RISE?
The RISE (Raising Interest in Science and Engineering) Summer Internship Program for High School Students is sponsored by Stanford University. It’s an intensive 7-week summer program for students interested in science, engineering, math, computer science and psychology. Students work six hours a day, five days a week on the Stanford campus, working in an active research lab under the guidance of a mentor from the lab (typically a graduate student), and attending weekly group sessions that include field trips, presentations, hands-on science activities, and lab tours.

The program offers participants:

- **An intense and rewarding educational experience:** We offer a chance to “learn by doing” and work to broaden participants’ understanding of the research process and the careers available in science and technology by providing authentic experience working in an active research lab.

- **Community activities:** Once per week the entire group of interns gets together for activities that complement the work being done in the labs. These activities include field trips, lectures, hands-on science labs, and sessions on college admissions and financial aid.

- **Stipend:** Students earn a $2,500 stipend payable in two equal installments (half at the midpoint of the program, and half on the last day).

- **Mentor:** Every student is assigned a mentor who is a graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, Stanford faculty member, or staff scientist. This mentor will supervise the student’s day-to-day work.

- **Confidence & leadership skills:** The program develops skills and boosts confidence to help students succeed in college and get launched into a STEM-related career.

- **Friendship:** Working with researchers and other students for seven weeks is a great way to get to know people and launch a professional network. Long-lasting friendships are fostered in this positive and caring environment.

When is the program held?
The 2019 program dates are Wednesday, June 19 through Wednesday, August 7. Applicants **must** commit to attend the **entire** program in order to participate. Students will work six hours a day each weekday of the session (not including lunch time). Although exact schedules may vary and are somewhat flexible, they will typically be on campus from about 9:00 am – 3:30 pm each day.
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How will I spend my time?
The program is structured to make the most of the seven weeks. Thus, throughout the day there is not a lot of free time. Participants divide their time between working in the lab under the supervision of their mentor (four days a week) and participating in group activities with the other summer interns (one day a week).

Who is eligible for RISE?
Students must meet ALL of these eligibility criteria (there are no exceptions!):
- From a low-income family;
- Will be the first in their families (other than siblings) to go to a 4-year college.
- Have at least a 3.5 (weighted) GPA;
- Have earned all As and Bs in science and math classes completed in high school;
- Be 16 years old by June 19, 2019;
- Be legally entitled to work in the U.S. (i.e., must have a Social Security Number);
- Attend high school locally (within about a 30-mile radius of Stanford) and be able to commute to the Stanford campus on a daily basis;
- Be a rising sophomore, junior or senior in summer 2018;
- Have an interest in science, medicine, math, engineering, computer science, or psychology;
- Have demonstrated intelligence, maturity and initiative.

How do I apply for this program?
Applicants must be nominated by their teacher or principal. Your teacher or principal can nominate you via an online form beginning in December. Once you’ve been nominated, you will receive a link and password to the online application from RISE.

All applicants must complete the application including three short essays by February 15, 2019. In addition, applicants are responsible for getting a teacher, counselor or principal to complete an online Recommendation Form this will be due by Friday, March 1st. Applicants will receive instructions for completing this task when they apply online.

What is the selection process?
Applicants will receive an email to confirm the receipt of their application materials. The program is competitive! After the Office of Science Outreach staff reviews applications from all candidates, many eligible applicants will be invited to come to campus to interview with a mentor. In some cases multiple on-campus interviews may be necessary. Applicants will receive an update on their status in early May, and most positions will be confirmed at that point. Some additional decisions will likely be made later in the spring, based on the number of host labs and amount of funding Stanford can identify. Applicants who need updated information about their chance of selection in order to make decisions about other summer opportunities are welcome to email Kaye Storm during this process.