

This is a general Frequently Asked Questions document for SLI's winter and summer internships. Some questions may vary depending on the type of internship, so for further explanation, please reach out to the SLI staff team.

## APPLICATION-RELATED

- 1. What can I do to up my chances of getting an internship?**
  - a. First, please know that we prioritize the following criteria:
    - i. Students who are low-income, as seen in a FAFSA or personal statement.
    - ii. Students who have not had a prior internship.
    - iii. Students who don't have a previous bachelor's degree.
    - iv. Students who are from groups that are statistically underrepresented in STEM (Black, Latinx, Native American, and Pacific Islander).
  - b. We encourage **anyone** to apply.
  - c. Just make sure you fill out the complete application, and make sure to spend some time on your My Story essay.
  - d. There's no other "formula" or advice to give about upping your chances of getting an internship. We wish you luck!

## ELIGIBILITY

- 2. I'm currently in high school, taking Foothill classes, am I eligible?**
  - a. You would need to be 18 or over at the time of the start of the internship.
  - b. We do not make exceptions for this requirement.
- 3. I'm not taking classes at Foothill the quarter before the internship happens, am I eligible?**
  - a. For the winter micro-internship program - you need to take at least 6 units the fall before the internship, and then at least 6 units for the winter quarter (not including the ITRN course). The basic premise is that you need to be a Foothill College student - not someone just dabbling or not in college.
  - b. For the summer internship program - you need to have taken at least 6 units in the spring, before the summer. We do not require that you take any summer classes except for the ITRN course.
- 4. Am I eligible if I am an international student on a student visa?**
  - a. Yes! Make sure you have been a Foothill student for at least one academic year - 9 months, not counting summer.
  - b. If you are accepted for an internship, it is your responsibility to reach out to the SLI staff team and the international office to complete any necessary paperwork and authorizations.
- 5. I am an undocumented student, can I apply?**
  - a. Yes! The way most students get paid is through the scholarship process, so work authorization or a social security number is not required for our internships. Don't let your immigration status deter you!

- 6. I'm transferring to a four year university in the fall, can I apply for and do a summer internship before I transfer?**
- Yes! You ARE expected to complete the whole internship, which usually runs until about the first week in September. This includes doing a final presentation (which can be done in person or on Zoom). So take into consideration you may be starting classes as you are finishing up the last few weeks of your internship. Some mentors are willing to be flexible to adjust end dates. But SLI will not adjust your doing your final presentation with the rest of the group in early September.
- 7. I will be abroad during the internship, can I still participate?**
- No, you need to be living in California for the duration of the internship, even if it is remote. There are many live Zoom sessions and meetings, and even with a remote internship, you would need to meet your mentor on Zoom. Being in a different time zone will be challenging and we cannot accommodate scheduling conflicts.
- 8. I'm a first year student, would I be eligible?**
- Yes! There are quite a few internships every cycle that just require enthusiasm and interest in the research/ topic/ work. Although there are definitely some internship placements which require certain skills and coursework, just know that there are also plenty of opportunities appropriate for someone who may have only taken a few STEM courses.

## ACCEPTANCE-RELATED

- 9. If I am offered more than one internship is there a possibility of doing more than one?**
- No, every student will have a maximum of one SLI internship at a time.
- 10. Will everyone who applies get an internship?**
- No, we have generally had between 20 - 25 placements for the winter program and 25 - 35 placements each summer and more applicants than that. So just applying is not a guarantee of a placement.
- 11. How many people apply and are accepted each cycle?**
- There is no set number of how many people apply each cycle.
  - For the winter micro-internships, we generally accept about 20 - 25 students.
  - For the summer internships, we accept about 25 - 30 students.
  - Some of our projects in the Project and Mentor Catalog do not get a student placed there because we have limited funding and capacity to support the above target numbers for our internship program each cycle.

## REQUIREMENTS DURING THE INTERNSHIP

- 12. Which ITRN (Internship) course should I sign up for?**
- First, do not sign up for the ITRN course until you are fully accepted to the internship program. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of time to sign up.

- b. The different unit ITRN courses (50, 51, etc.) go along with how many hours your internship looks to be.
  - i. In the winter, for the micro-internships, with a 6-7 hour commitment each week over 11 weeks, that's about 66-77 hours, so you can choose either the 50 or 51 class (36 hours or 72 hours).
  - ii. In the summer, the internships vary in number of hours per week and total weeks, so you can calculate the estimated total number of hours and sign up for the appropriate ITRN course based on that:
    - 1. ITRN 50 - 36 hours
    - 2. ITRN 51 - 72 hours
    - 3. ITRN 52 - 108 hours
    - 4. ITRN 53 - 144 hours
    - 5. ITRN 54 - 180 hours

**13. Am I limited to the designated hours of the internship (for example 6 - 7 hours per week for the winter micro internship or 15 - 20 hours per week for the summer internship)?**

- a. Yes. This is the arrangement we have agreed upon with the internship mentor partners. You will not get paid for hours you do on your own or extra, and you should not be asking your internship mentor for additional hours of work.

**14. I looked at the ITRN course and it conflicts with one of the classes am I taking. Am I still eligible if I can't register for the ITRN course?**

- a. The ITRN course requires just 2 synchronous Zoom meetings with the instructor. If your class conflicts, we work with the ITRN instructor so you can register for an asynchronous course, but you are still required to meet with the instructor - during a make up session that you arrange with her.