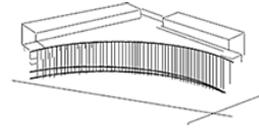


Lewis-Sigler Institute
for Integrative Genomics



Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Molecular and Quantitative & Computational Biology

Frequently Asked Questions

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Program Eligibility: Visiting Students

Visiting students (non-Princeton) students are welcome to apply to the program using the online [application](#).

Eligibility requirements

Visiting student applicants who are current undergraduates and U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply.

The summer undergraduate research program is geared towards undergraduates who have a strong passion for scientific research and are seriously considering graduate studies (PhD) in Molecular Biology (MOL) or Quantitative/Computational Biology (QCB).

We encourage applications from future life sciences researchers:

- (1) whose participation will add to the diversity of researchers in the sciences, or
- (2) whose interests lie at the boundary between biology and the computational sciences including physics, chemistry, computer science and engineering, or
- (3) who are from institutions that do not have large research programs.

Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled full-time in an accredited public or private college or university in the United States or its territories, as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Demonstrate a committed interest to pursue graduate study toward a PhD or MD-PhD.
- Have completed at least two semesters and have at least one semester remaining of their undergraduate education by the start of the summer program.
- Be a documented U.S. citizen or non-citizen national, or permanent resident in possession of an alien registration receipt card (I-551) or other legal document of such status at the time of application. International citizens studying in the United States with an F-1 Visa are not eligible for the SR-EIP. Individuals seeking asylum or refugees are not eligible.

Can high school students apply?

No. Applicants must be current undergraduates - rising sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors during the summer they participate in the program. High school students are not eligible to apply. High school students should visit the [Princeton Laboratory Learning Program](#) website for possible summer research opportunities.

Can incoming college freshmen apply?

No. Applicants must be current undergraduates - rising sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors during the summer they participate in the program. Incoming college freshmen are not eligible to apply.

Can recent college graduates apply?

No. Applicants must be current undergraduates - rising sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors during the summer they participate in the program. Students who will receive their bachelor's degree before the start date of the summer program are not eligible to apply.

I transferred from an associate's college or a 4-year baccalaureate program. Must I upload a transcript from my previous institution?

Yes, if you transferred to your current school, then both transcripts are required. Upload both transcripts even if your current school transcript includes transferred courses. Upload transcripts from schools you attended full-time for at least one semester.

Can I submit my transcript before my Fall 2018 grades are recorded?

Your transcript must include your Fall 2018 final grades.

Will my application be considered if it is incomplete?

Your application will not be considered unless it is complete.

Can I submit more than two recommendations?

You may only submit two recommendations with your application.

Application Process for Visiting Students

What are the application requirements?

To apply to the summer program, please submit the following:

- **Application form** (submitted [online](#))
- **Personal statement** (included in the online application form)
- **Two letters of recommendation** from faculty members (submitted online by faculty recommenders - separate from the application form)
- **Transcript(s) of all undergraduate courses and grades**, including the current fall semester submitted in PDF or Word format. *Unofficial transcript copies are acceptable.*
- **CV or résumé** (included in the online application form)

When will the online application be available?

The [online](#) application will be available in November 1st.

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline is February 1. All required application components must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. EST on February 1. Applications received after the deadline will not be evaluated.

What should I write about in my personal statement?

In your personal statement, please *briefly* describe your academic background, research interests, career goals, reasons for applying to the program, and how your participation in the program may assist with attaining your future ambitions of pursuing a doctoral degree.

Does the personal statement have a word limit?

Yes. Please limit your statement to 300 words.

How do I submit letters of recommendation?

Please enter your referees' names, titles, phone numbers and institutional email addresses in the online application. Once you click the "Save and send e-mail to references" button, an email will then go out to each referee with a link for them to submit their online recommendation on your behalf.

You do not need to submit your application for your recommenders to receive their email notices.

Please only supply an institutional email address (.edu, .org, .gov) for both your referees. We will not accept referee email addresses from private accounts such as Gmail, AOL, Yahoo, Google, etc. Please contact surp@princeton.edu with any questions, problems, or concerns regarding this policy.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

It is helpful to have your recommendation letters come from college level advisors, professors, researchers, or professionals who can remark on your laboratory skills, academic background, problem solving abilities, and/or overall scholarship. Recommendations can be written by faculty/advisors from your home institution or by professionals outside your home institution (such as an advisor from a past internship). Current college freshmen should avoid submitting recommendations from high school teachers but should feel free to mention high school achievements in their personal statement.

Can I change my referee?

You can change your referee only if s/he has *not* submitted a recommendation yet. To do so, log in to your application, revise the referee information and click the button to update your application. An automated email with the recommendation link will then go out to the new referee asking her/him to submit a recommendation on your behalf. The original referee will also receive an email notifying her/him that the prior invitation s/he received is no longer valid. Please let your original referee know of the change before s/he receives the automated email notice.

What should I do if my recommender did not receive the automated email?

The email may have bounced to your referee's spam or junk folders.

If not, make sure that the recommender's email address is correct on your application. If it is incorrect, make the corrections and hit the "Update" button to have the recommendation request resent.

If your referee has any additional issues submitting his/her recommendation, s/he should email surp@princeton.edu for assistance.

How do I submit my online application?

After you complete the four page [online application](#) including the personal statement section, please click the "Approve Application" button on the application home page to submit your application form for consideration.

Can I submit my application before my recommendation letters are received?

Yes. You can submit/approve your application before your recommendation letters are submitted.

How can I find out if my recommendation letters were submitted?

Please log in to the [online application](#) and view the Recommendations section on your Program Application Page to check whether the letters were received. You can log in to the system and check the status of your recommendations anytime.

How do I submit my transcript(s)?

In order to submit a transcript, please upload an electronic or scanned version of your transcript that you obtained from your college or university into the online application form.

An unofficial of your transcript is acceptable, please scan, Do not submit phone picture or screen captures.

Transcripts must be in PDF format.

Please do not mail a hard copy of your transcript. If you are offered admission to the program and accept the offer, you will be required to submit an official hard copy of your transcript from your current college or university. Mailing instructions will be included in the offer letter.

How do I submit my CV/resumé?

Please upload your CV or resumé via the online application system. PDF format is preferred.

How can I find out if my application is complete?

Please log in to the [online application](#) to check the status of your application.

You will also receive an email notice regarding any missing components before the application deadline.

When will I be informed about the status of my application?

All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by email on or before **March 1, 2019**.

What are my chances of being accepted to the program?

The admission committee thoroughly evaluates each application; there is no single deciding factor for admission. The program is fairly competitive. Over the past five years, we averaged 260 applications a year with ~10% of applicants being selected for the program.

Program Eligibility: Princeton Students

Princeton juniors (rising seniors)

Princeton juniors majoring in molecular biology and writing a laboratory-based senior thesis are invited to participate in the MOL/QCB Summer Undergraduate Research Program during the summer before their senior year. *No application is necessary.* In March, students will be emailed the program contract, get their adviser's signature on it, and return it to [Melissa DiMeglio](#), Undergraduate Administrator, Molecular Biology Department.

Princeton juniors are provided with a stipend but are responsible for their own [housing](#) and travel.

Princeton rising sophomores and rising juniors

Rising sophomores and juniors are *not* eligible to apply to the MOL/QCB Summer Undergraduate Research Program. We are no longer able to support summer research for Princeton rising sophomores and rising juniors due to major funding cutbacks. Rising sophomores and rising juniors interested in participating are welcome to join the program if the student is able to secure a position and funding in an affiliated laboratory. There is no formal mechanism for placing rising sophomores and rising juniors in laboratories; rather it is left to the initiative of the interested student to contact the faculty member. Students who have secured a summer laboratory position and funding should contact [Melissa DiMeglio](#) to be included in the summer program activities.

Princeton Integrated Science students

ISC students interested in participating will need to find a lab to work in and should contact [Jennifer Brick](#), Student Specialist, Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics.

Program Specifics

When does the program start and end?

The program runs for nine weeks from June 10 – August 9, 2019. Students are expected to participate for the entire duration of the program.

How much is the stipend for visiting students?

The stipend is \$4,000 (before taxes) for the nine-week program. Participants will receive the stipend during the first two weeks of the program.

Will my stipend be taxed?

This determination is made by Princeton University's Office of Finance and Treasury. See their [website](#) for details.

Are housing and travel provided?

Visiting students participating in the program are provided with housing in Princeton residence halls and are reimbursed for traveling expenses within budgetary limits.

Princeton MOL juniors/rising seniors are responsible for their own [housing](#) and travel.

What is expected of a summer program student?

Each student is placed in a world-class research laboratory – headed by a Faculty member – and carries out an original research project. Students will experience first-hand what it is like to be a scientist.

Students are expected put in a 40-hour week in the lab and are also required to submit an abstract and present a poster of their summer research at a poster session held at the conclusion of the program.

What areas of research are available?

Available areas of research include:

[biochemistry](#), [biophysics](#), [cancer](#), [cell biology](#), [chemical biology](#), [computation and modeling](#), [development](#), [evolution](#), [genetics](#), [genomics](#), [global health](#), [microbiology and virology](#), and [structural biology](#).

Please visit the Department of Molecular Biology's [website](#) and the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics' [website](#) for detailed research descriptions.

Students interested in **Neuroscience** or **Chemistry** should check out the following Princeton University summer research programs:

- [**The Princeton Neuroscience Institute \(PNI\) Summer Internship Program**](#)
- [**Summer Undergraduate Research Program for Diversity in Chemistry**](#)

How are students placed in a lab?

We carefully match students to labs based on their research interests as indicated in their application form, recommendation letters and personal statement. We take into consideration each applicant's overall experience, academic background, and objectives to ensure a good match. Particular lab requests cannot be guaranteed.

When do I find out about my lab placement?

Lab assignments are emailed to program participants in April and May.

What are the other program highlights?

Other highlights of the program include:

- Research discussion groups (learn to analyze and present data)
- Faculty forum (attend weekly seminars given by Princeton Faculty)
- Poster session (present your research to respected scientists)
- Graduate school seminars (learn about graduate school)

Who do I contact if I have any other questions?

Princeton students should contact: [Melissa DiMeglio](#)

Visiting students should contact: [SURP program coordinator](#)

Thank you.

Click [here](#) to return to the application start page.

Click [here](#) to return to the Program home page.