

Claremont Colleges' Intercollegiate Neurosciences 2016 Summer Research Fellowship Program

Conduct research in a neuroscience laboratory of your choice as part of the Claremont Colleges' Intercollegiate Neurosciences 2016 Summer Research Fellowship Program. Five students, selected on a competitive basis, will each be awarded \$5,000. The competition is open to all neuroscience majors across the 5Cs. An additional \$5,000.00 stipend has been earmarked for students from under-represented groups, including African-American, Pacific Islander, Latino and Native-American students. (Note, the application and evaluation process are the same as in the standard fellowship program.)

Fellowship Lab Placements

In conjunction with the neuroscience community of Southern California and other institutions, the Claremont Colleges' Intercollegiate Neurosciences Program has coordinated a number of active labs for summer research placements (please see the Placement Site List for a detailed listing of sites that includes a short description of each placement and associated contact information). Selected students may choose from any one of these or can independently procure and coordinate their own placement provided the placement is in a laboratory whose research program is neuroscience-based and approved by the intercollegiate neurosciences coordinator.

Fellowship Calendar

- **May through August, 2016.** Fellowship placements are for a 10-week period, May through August, 2016. (Specific dates will be determined by the placement site principal investigator and the student, but typically begin before the last week of June.)
- **September 2016.** Upon completion of the program, fellowship students present their research findings at a research symposium on campus organized by the W.M. Keck Science Department. (Pomona students have the option of presenting their summer research at the Pomona College Summer Research Symposium.) The nature and details of these symposia will be communicated to students in July.

Program Benefits

Selected Summer Research Fellowship students benefit in several ways:

- **Advanced Laboratory Experience.** Learn advanced techniques and procedures that are beyond the scope of most neuroscience laboratory classes. Examples include brain imaging (PET, fMRI), single-unit recording, techniques in molecular biology such as in situ hybridization and PCR, immunohistochemical labeling, receptor autoradiography, cell culture, behavioral evaluation, etc.
- **Research.** Students will learn the intricacies of scientific research including the generation of questions, the formulation of hypotheses, experimental design, data analysis and interpretation, as well as different research philosophies. Furthermore, independent research exposes students to problems that neuroscientists deal with on a day-to-day basis that are not normally addressed in courses or textbook readings.
- **Collaboration.** Collaboration is the hallmark of a successful research program. Students will learn how to work with other researchers in a team setting.
- **Senior Thesis.** Summer research may potentially evolve into a senior thesis project for 2016-17 seniors. For juniors, summer research is a great way to initiate a research program that leads to their senior year thesis project.
- **Graduate School Applications.** Summer research experience in neuroscience enhances a student's profile on applications to graduate or medical school.
- **Fun and Challenging.** One of the most gratifying aspects of scientific exploration is measuring or observing a phenomenon that no one else has seen or thought about. Understanding the brain is often referred to as the "final frontier of scientific exploration." Fellowship recipients will be one of the pioneers exploring this uncharted territory called the brain.

Application Process

- **Application Deadline.** Monday, March 9, 2015 in RM 104, Broad Hall, Pitzer College.
- **Application Form.** Complete the Application Form. Be sure to sign and date the form. Applicants who are selecting sites from the Placement Sites List complete Section B; applicants who have procured or plan to procure their own research placement complete Section C. Sections A and D are to be completed by all applicants. Submit three copies of the application.
- **Transcripts.** Provide three copies of your academic transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
- **CV/Resume.** Provide three copies of a current CV or resume highlighting any previous research experience, technical expertise or volunteer experience in neuroscience, general biology/medicine or the equivalent. Any techniques-based lab course that you have taken at the Claremont Colleges or elsewhere should be listed here as well. Students that do not have experience in the above should indicate previous part-time or full-time employment.
- **Statement of Research Interests/Goals.** Three copies of a letter that outlines your research interests and goals. This should be written in the form of a cover letter and should include each of the following: research interests, career goals, what you hope to learn from your summer research experience. The research interest letter should be a single spaced, typed document (using 12 point font) and should not exceed one page (750 words).
- **Letters of Recommendation.** Two letters of recommendation from a faculty member or other person familiar with the applicant's work. A recommendation check-list form (provided as part of this packet) should be submitted along with the recommendation letter. The names and emails of your references must be indicated on the application form.

Where to Submit Your Application

- Collection Box outside RM 104, Broad Hall, Pitzer College. A collection box will be placed by the door.
- Mailbox of Professor Thomas Borowski, Scott Hall, Pitzer College.

Notification Process

- **Early April.** Applicants will be notified of competition results.
- **April Placement Interviews.** Successful applicants will subsequently schedule interviews with their prospective placement principal investigators throughout the month of April. Organized The interview is critical for a successful placement.
- **May Fellowship Meeting.** A general organizational meeting will be held with successful applicants to clarify fellowship expectations and answer questions.

Additional Information

- **Tax Liability.** Please be aware that the summer fellowship stipend is subject to both federal and state taxes and will be paid in two installments during the 10-week placement. More details on tax liability will be discussed at the May Fellowship meeting.
- **Housing and Transportation.** Students will be required to coordinate their own housing accommodations and transportation (if necessary) for their fellowship placement. Availability of housing varies by Fellowship placement.