

## A Guide to Summer Programs

Summer experiences are crucial to packaging a student as a scholar and a candidate for graduate/professional school. Today we see a generational shift. In a global market, no longer is a degree sufficient to allow for exponential mobility. Concertedly, it is no longer just a degree and a test score that will get you into graduate opportunities- a student must brand them. Whether it is research, internships or study abroad opportunities, at least one summer of a student's collegiate career should be open to an experience outside of the home institution's classrooms.

Now understanding that a summer program experience may be a critical piece of your collegiate experience, you may have some questions. Please read below to gain a better understanding of what a summer program is and which will best fit you and your future goals.

### What are summer programs?

Summer programs or experiences fall under many different names and have different components based upon varying factors. Generally they fall into 3 categories: Summer research experiences, internships and study abroad opportunities. These experiences are not unique to the summer, but many times their advantages can be amplified with the freedom of the summer.

- 1. Summer research programs:** Summer research programs are generally called REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates). Hundreds of universities have these opportunities open to students. There are many universities and colleges that sit under a consortium; such consortiums are the Leadership Alliance and Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). They have a myriad of programs with one specifically focused towards undergraduate research experiences, Summer Research- Early Identification Program (SR- EIP) and Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), respectively. These types of programs are by and large geared towards research and graduate school preparation; as such, include a combination of mentorship, GRE preparation, research and conference presentations, seminars and access and exposure to other beneficial resources. In addition to receiving preparation and gaining skills for graduate school, the vast majority of these opportunities are accompanied by stipends of varying amounts, \$1,000- \$4,500. Students may contact the Office of Graduate Placement or the *Pre-Med Office* (NCF- [xupremed@yahoo.com](mailto:xupremed@yahoo.com), 504.520.7437) for information concerning summer research opportunities.
- 2. Internships:** Internships can be paid or unpaid. They differ from summer research programs because many times it includes an application of knowledge. Internships are built to give hands-on exposure to a field as opposed to conducting research. Due to the nature of internships, students generally look to participate in an internship when they have aspirations to attend professional school (e.g. Business, Law, Medicine, etc.) or want to work in an applied field (i.e. teaching, accounting, engineering, Policy, Urban Planning, etc.) Although a concerted effort to provide information concerning these opportunities, Career Services is best fit to assist students in locating an internship. *The Office of Career Services is located in St. Joseph's Academic and Health Resource Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor; you may contact them at 504.520.7364 or email the Associate Director, Ms. Minnard, [mminnard@xula.edu](mailto:mminnard@xula.edu).*
- 3. Study Abroad Opportunities:** Study abroad programs are desirable and potentially valuable to all students, no matter the classification, major or desired career trajectory. Because of the breadth of what a study abroad program can bring, it is unnecessary to consider whether these opportunities fit with your goals. Study abroad programs are malleable and many can be formed into whatever one's imagination can dream up. Programs can be research oriented, internship oriented or scholastically focused. Although a concerted effort to provide information concerning these opportunities, the CIIP Office (Center for Intercultural and International Programs) is best fit to assist students in locating an these opportunities and funding. *The CIIP Office is located in St. Joseph's Academic and Health Resource Center 312; you may contact them at 504.520.5491 or email the Associate Director, K. Lee, [kwlee@xula.edu](mailto:kwlee@xula.edu).*

### Where/How can I find a summer program?

For more information contact one of the offices below.

<b>The Office of Graduate Placement</b> St. Joseph Academic and Health Resource Center-306 504.520.7633 <a href="http://www.xula.edu/gradstar">www.xula.edu/gradstar</a> or <a href="mailto:gradstar@xula.edu">gradstar@xula.edu</a>	<b>Office of Career Services</b> St. Joseph Academic and Health Resource Center-306 504.520.7364
<b>Center for Undergraduate Research</b> St. Joseph Academic and Health Resource Center-308 504.520.5066	<b>Center of Intercultural and International Programs</b> St. Joseph Academic and Health Resource Center-312 504.520.5491

### Who can apply?

There are programs out there for everyone, any classification, any interest... just about everything. All one must do is search. Many times freshman and graduating seniors feel as though they are excluded from these opportunities, which is simply not the case. There are programs available for freshman to graduate students.

### What do I need to apply?

Application materials vary according to each program or opportunity, but one thing is consistent. As an applicant you need tenacity and organization. Many find the application process to be a bit taxing, but it is a manageable task if one is cognizant of what is expected and has prepared. To prepare, you must create a timeline and use your resources. If this occurs, you can have a successful summer experience. Outside of this most programs request a combination of some of the items listed below.

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Letter(s) of Recommendation               | Interview       |
| Transcripts (Official or Unofficial)      | Curriculum Vita |
| Statement of Intent or Personal Statement | Resume          |
| Writing Sample                            |                 |

### What are the tangible benefits of completing a summer program?

Outside of the benefits mentioned above, there are some priceless benefits of participating in a summer program. If you successfully place yourself and take full advantage of the opportunity, it will yield great results. Many students return with a more focused vision of what they want professionally and academically, a social network of future colleagues and/or a global understanding of the world. In addition, we advise that each student return to their home institution with the following.

- An updated curriculum vita and/or resume
- A letter of recommendation
- A statement of intent or personal statement (differing from what was requested with the application)

### Who can I see for assistance during the application process?

Many times the application process can be a bit overwhelming and seem like an insurmountable task. Again, we emphasize using the resources that you have at your disposal. Apart from the offices mentioned above, faculty and other staff members can be an invaluable resource to you. Additionally, use the writing center to overlook your personal statement. The resources are here you must just take the time to find and use them.

# Organizing the Application Process\*

## 1. Locate/Identify 5-10 summer programs

Choosing a summer program can seem tedious at times, but there are some key tips that will start you off on the right foot. First, you should look for programs at institutions where you may potentially want to attend graduate school. This will give you a peek at what the institution is like in terms of research, culture, and the city overall. Next, you should look at consortiums. When groups of schools have a general application, you can apply to many schools at once and they find the faculty that match with your interest at your desired institution. Lastly, stay in contact with faculty and the Office of Graduate Placement. Many times summer programs and institutions reach out to us attempting to recruit Xavier students.

## 2. Request Letters of Recommendation

This should be done no less than 4 weeks before the deadline. Those that agree to write you a favorable letter should be given clear instruction on how to submit the letter and any supplemental materials they must complete (e.g. Stamped addressed envelope, forms, etc.). We request that a copy of your letter be sent to the Office of Graduate Placement for your file. You should check back with your recommenders during your application process to remind them.

## 3. Fill out the application

Most applications will be online or have a writable pdf. As such, you may begin and enter your demographic information and finish at a later date. Use this time to become familiar with what the application request and gather those items over the next 2 months (i.e. personal statement, writing sample, research statement, and transcript).

## 4. Write Personal Statement or Statement of Intent

This will be a process and you will have some edits and rewrites. This process will occur over a span of time, and most do not write it in one sitting. You want a core statement because some applications' prompts differ slightly and you will add and subtract accordingly. Students are free to send over their personal statements for editing to the Office of Graduate Placement and the Writing Lab. Use these resources.

## 5. Request Transcripts

Submit your request for transcripts if your application requires official transcripts. You can get transcripts request forms from the Registrar on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Xavier South and will need cash to pay for them. You need to allow no less than 2 weeks for your transcript request to be processed and sent.

## 6. Write/Update your Curriculum Vita

Your curriculum vita (CV) is almost like your academic resume. It allows the reader to see you beyond your work experience and see your scholastic and extra-curricular activities. This includes research, conferences and presentation, professional memberships, honors and awards, publications and many other categories. Some professionals have CVs that are over 20 pages, as they are quite active and accomplished. Your CV is not limited to 1-2 pages. Please see the link for guidance on how to construct a CV, <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Basics-of-Science-CV/46273/>.

\*This is based on summer research opportunities. Internships and study abroad applications may differ. Please see the appropriate office for details.

## **Summer Opportunity Websites**

Please use the links below to view multiple REU programs at one time. All of these databases are compiled and monitored by institutions and organizations outside of Xavier and the Office of Graduate Placement. These are just resources and are not exhaustive; please take efforts to look beyond this list.

### **Summer Opportunities for ALANA (*African American, Latino/a, Asian American and Native American*) Undergraduate Students**

<http://www.doorsofopportunity.org/>

<http://prindia1.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2011resourceguide.pdf>

### **National Science Foundation**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5517&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517&from=fund)

### **Pathways to Science**

[http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programs.asp?descriptorhub=SummerResearch\\_Summer%20Research%20Opportunity](http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programs.asp?descriptorhub=SummerResearch_Summer%20Research%20Opportunity)

[http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programs.asp?u=&r=&s=&sa=either&p=either&c=either&f=&dd=SummerResearch\\_SummerResearchOpportunity&ft=&submit=y&dhub=SummerResearch\\_SummerResearchOpportunity](http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programs.asp?u=&r=&s=&sa=either&p=either&c=either&f=&dd=SummerResearch_SummerResearchOpportunity&ft=&submit=y&dhub=SummerResearch_SummerResearchOpportunity)

### **Clemson- Bioengineering**

<http://www.clemson.edu/ces/bioe/current-students/undergraduate/summer.html>

### **Engineering Research Center for CASA**

[http://www.casa.umass.edu/main/education\\_and\\_outreach/students/reu\\_program/](http://www.casa.umass.edu/main/education_and_outreach/students/reu_program/)

### **University of South Florida**

<http://www.ur.usf.edu/searchprj/searchmpage.aspx>

### **University of California, Los Angeles**

<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/srp/srpintro.htm>

### **University of Texas**

<http://cns.utexas.edu/careers/health-professions/summer-programs>

### **Additional Websites- Summer REUs**

- <http://www.family-institute.org/education/summer-research-intern>
- <http://www.pace.edu/counseling-center/training-opportunities-new-york/undergraduate-psychology-summer-internship-program>
- [http://curry.virginia.edu/research/projects/surp?utm\\_source=SRCD+Membership&utm\\_campaign=308bf3490a-SRCD\\_January\\_2011\\_E\\_News\\_1\\_6\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://curry.virginia.edu/research/projects/surp?utm_source=SRCD+Membership&utm_campaign=308bf3490a-SRCD_January_2011_E_News_1_6_2011&utm_medium=email)  
<http://purduepsych.posterous.com/summer-undergraduate-research-opportunity>
- <http://education.gsu.edu/cps/742.html>
- <http://sfl.aa.ufl.edu/extramural>

## **Internship and Study Abroad Sites**

### **Internships**

#### **General Database**

[www.internshipprograms.com](http://www.internshipprograms.com)

#### **Brown University- Internships in Biological Science**

<http://biology.brown.edu/bug/summer-internship-database#>

#### **Stanford- Internships in Africa**

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/internships.html>

#### **Kaiser- Health Policy**

<http://www.kaiseredu.org/Fellowships-and-Internships.aspx>

#### **RISE- Research Internships in Science and Engineering**

<http://www.daad.de/rise/en/11639/index.html>

### **Study Abroad Sites**

#### **Stanford- Internships in Africa**

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/internships.html>

#### **IIE Passport**

<http://www.iiepassport.org/>

#### **General Database**

[GoAbroad.com](http://GoAbroad.com)

[Studyabroad.com](http://Studyabroad.com)

#### **The Association for Asian Studies**

<http://www.aasianst.org/study/main.htm>

#### **Australian Educational Office**

<http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/en/Home>

## Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs)

<u>Summer Program</u>	<u>Institution/ Organization</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Website</u>
Summer Training Academy in the Sciences (STARS)	University of California- San Diego	STEM	25-Feb-12	5/19-8/12/12	<a href="http://ogs.ucsd.edu/stars">http://ogs.ucsd.edu/stars</a>
Summer Research Opportunities Program	CIC Institutions (Multiple)	ALL	12-Feb-12	Varies - 8 weeks	<a href="http://www.cic.net/srop">www.cic.net/srop</a>
Leadership Alliance	Multiple Universities	ALL	2/1/2012	Varies by institution	<a href="http://www.leadershipalliance.com">www.leadershipalliance.com</a>
Ralph Bunche Summer Institute	Multiple Universities (Duke & Whitman College )	Political Science	2/1/2012		<a href="http://www.apsanet.org/rbsi/">http://www.apsanet.org/rbsi/</a>
AMGEN	Columbia University or Barnard University	Biological Science	2/1/2012	5/29- 8/3/2012	<a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/amgen/">http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/amgen/</a>
Summer Research Initiative (SRI)	University of Maryland	Behavioral & Social Sciences and Economics	2/17/2012	06/02-07/27/12	<a href="http://www.bsos.umd.edu/diversity/summer-research-initiative.aspx">http://www.bsos.umd.edu/diversity/summer-research-initiative.aspx</a>
Trauma Lab	The New School	Psychological and Behavioral Sciences	Open	Open	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/nssrtraumalab/home/contact-1">http://sites.google.com/site/nssrtraumalab/home/contact-1</a>
Summer Research Internship Program for Advanced Undergraduates	Northwestern	Psychological & Behavioral Sciences			<a href="http://www.family-institute.org/education/summer-research-intern">http://www.family-institute.org/education/summer-research-intern</a>

Undergraduate Psychology Summer Internship Program	Pace University - NYC	Psychology	January 1, 2012 through January 31, 2012	June 1, 2012- August 12, 2012	<a href="http://www.pace.edu/counseling-center/training-opportunities-new-york/undergraduate-psychology-summer-internship-program">http://www.pace.edu/counseling-center/training-opportunities-new-york/undergraduate-psychology-summer-internship-program</a>
Summer Undergraduate Research opportunity Program (SUROP)	Kansas State University	STEM and Public Health	Varies	Varies	<a href="http://www.ksu.edu/grad/gshome/surop.htm">http://www.ksu.edu/grad/gshome/surop.htm</a>
Behavioral Research Advancements in Neuroscience (BRAIN)	Georgia State University	Psychology & Neuroscience	13-Feb-12	May 23 - August 4, 2012	<a href="http://www.cbn-atl.org/education/brain.shtml">http://www.cbn-atl.org/education/brain.shtml</a>
AMGEN Summer in Biomedical Science (SIBS)	Stanford University	Biological Science	1-Feb-12		
Summer Research Diversity Fellowships in Law and Social Science for Undergraduate Students	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Biomedical Science	10-Feb-12	Jun 4- July 27	<a href="http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/SummerResearchDiversityFellowshipsinLawandSocialScience.html">www.uab.edu/sibs</a>
InPsych/ Indians in psychology	American Bar Foundation	Law & Social Science	15-Feb-12		<a href="http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/SummerResearchDiversityFellowshipsinLawandSocialScience.html">http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/SummerResearchDiversityFellowshipsinLawandSocialScience.html</a>
		Psychology	1-Jun-12		