

LearnLab Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates

Application Instructions for Summer 2014

Description:

Research Position Title: LearnLab Research Assistant

Program Director/ Research Faculty: Ken Koedinger, Charles Perfetti and 38 other faculty

Contact Information: jobodnar@cs.cmu.edu

Send completed applications to:
LearnLab - Summer Internship Program
c/o Jo Bodnar
3501B Newell-Simon Hall - HCII
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Program/Research website: www.learnlab.org

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program Description

LearnLab at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh has an exciting summer research opportunity available to undergraduate students. This research program encourages applications from students who would like to conduct research in the fields of psychology, education, computer science, human-computer interfaces and language technologies. This program seeks broad participation, including members of underrepresented groups as defined by the National Science Foundation (African American, Hispanic, Native American) who may be considering pursuing further graduate study in the learning sciences.

LearnLab's REU program allows talented undergraduates to spend 8 weeks during the summer in a research laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, or one of our research partners. The REU program aims to make LearnLab's programs more visible to students not traditionally exposed to our fields. The REU program supports LearnLab's commitment to training a diverse set of science, technology, education, and psychology leaders.

Applications are encouraged from students who wish to learn to conduct research in a modern academic research laboratory under the guidance of experienced scientists and engineers and experiment in real classroom environments. The REU program will expose students to the

excitement and opportunities of a research career. This experience will provide excellent preparation for students interested in subsequently pursuing a Masters or Ph.D. degree. Although students from other years may apply, this opportunity is most fitting for a student at the end of the junior year of undergraduate studies.

Each student will receive a fellowship stipend of \$4000 for the eight-week REU program. Food, housing and travel will also be provided. Students will conduct research in an area matched to the interests expressed in the student's application. Guidance and supervision of the research project will be provided by the faculty member as well as, in some cases, a postdoctoral fellow and/or advanced graduate student.

Seminars specific to those participating in the REU program will be held weekly including seminars on graduate admissions and career opportunities in science, education, computer science and engineering. In addition, LearnLab seminars and those held by Carnegie Mellon's Human Computer Interaction Institute and Language Technologies Institute and seminars at Pitt's Language Research and Development Center will be open to the students, giving them exposure to a wide range of research in learning sciences.

REU Program Benefits

There are several benefits that the participating students may receive.

- If the student's research in the summer is of high quality and has added value to an ongoing research project, past students have been asked to be a coauthor on the research team's publication on that subject. Addition of publications to the resume of a graduate school applicant always greatly improves the application.
- If the quality of the research is high, the faculty member who advised the student would likely be willing to write a letter of recommendation for the student which could be included in a graduate school application.
- Research experience in one of the National Science Foundation's premier research centers will be viewed attractively.
- Scholarships may be available for graduate research on projects in LearnLab. The student should inquire about these possibilities during the summer.

REU Program Dates: Students will begin their research experience on Sunday, June 1, 2014 with a welcoming reception and information session. The REU program will end on Friday July 25, 2014 with a poster session in the afternoon.. Submission of an application indicates that the applicant agrees to be present from June 1 to 4pm, July 25, 2014 inclusive.

Application Deadline: Deadline for applications is February 17, 2014. Students will be informed of our decision by March 3, 2014.

Minimum Requirements: Applicants must be current undergraduates who are U.S. Citizens or have current F1 visas. Applicants should have a minimum of 3.5 GPA out of 4.0 although we

will consider students who show by other measures that they are exceptional and who have GPAs over 3.2. Class standing and grades in specific subjects that are close to the field of research will also be considered, as are recommendations.

Number of slots/ positions available: LearnLab can accommodate as many as 10 positions, although in any given year, we may decide to fund less than 10 applicants

Funding Source: National Science Foundation

Partner Institutions: Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Learning

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Application for LearnLab Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates Program

1. Name:
2. Permanent address:
3. Current address:
4. Email:
5. Phone:
6. University where you are a student:
7. Major:
8. This year, are you a:
___ Freshman
___ Sophomore
___ Junior
___ Senior
___ Other (explain) : _____
9. Latest SAT or ACT scores

SAT
_____ Reading
_____ Math
_____ Writing

ACT
_____ English
_____ Math
_____ Reading
_____ Science
10. Present GPA:

11. Are you a US citizen?

Yes

No If not, what is your visa status for summer 2013? _____

12. Gender (optional)

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

13. My ethnicity is (optional):

Check all that apply

African American

Asian Pacific Islander

Native American/Alaskan

Hispanic

White

Other (please specify): _____

Prefer not to say

14. Please include the following:

- official transcript
- an unofficial copy or your latest SAT or ACT score report
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from someone you have taken a course from at your university)
- resume
- Statement: Please answer the following:
 - o Why would you like to learn how to conduct research at LearnLab this summer and how would this experience help you achieve your professional goals?
 - o Is there a project or research area that you see on our website (<http://www.learnlab.org/research/wiki>) that you are interested in? (On the website Click on a thrusts and then *Descendants* to find the projects.)
 - o What will you do to foster diversity within LearnLab?

Please sign and mail us the following:

This application indicates that I am committed, in the case that I am admitted to the Summer Intern Program, to being present the entire time from June 2, 2013 to July 26, 2013 inclusive.

[your signature and printed name]

[date]