

Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center (PSLC)

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Carnegie Mellon University

&

University of Pittsburgh

Announce

Summer Internships in the Learning Sciences

The Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center (PSLC) at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh has an exciting summer research opportunity available to undergraduate students. This program encourages applications from students who would like to do research in the fields of psychology, education, computer science, human-computer interfaces and language technologies.

1. The PSLC's program provides support for talented undergraduates to spend 8 weeks during the summer working in a research laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University or the University of Pittsburgh. The program aims to encourage the participation of underrepresented students in our graduate programs and to make the PSLC's programs more visible to students not traditionally exposed to our fields. The program supports the PSLC's commitment to training a diverse set of science, technology, education, and psychology leaders. Applications will be considered from eligible students without regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.
2. Applications are encouraged from students who wish to work in a modern academic research laboratory under the guidance of experienced scientists and engineers and experiment in real classroom environments. The 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 program. Participants will also receive an allowance for housing and travel. In addition they may be interested in attending the one-week PSLC summer workshop on authoring tools for educational technology and experiments. Here they will create parts of an Intelligent Tutoring System and conduct an experiment on human learning principles.

3. Students will work in the laboratory of a Carnegie Mellon or Pitt faculty member in a research 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.
4. Seminars specific to the interns, PSLC 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 the whole range of work on our fields
5. Counseling and advice will be provided on a variety of topics, including graduate admissions and career opportunities in science, education, computer science and engineering.
6. Program Benefits:

There are several benefits that the participating student can accumulate. If the work in the summer is of high quality and has added value to an ongoing research project, the student may be asked to be a coauthor on the research team's publication on that subject. The addition of a publication to the resume of a graduate school applicant always greatly improves the application. Naturally, if the quality of the work is high, the faculty member who advised the student would likely be willing to write a letter of recommendation for the student. This also improves an application. Finally, the environment that the student has been in for the summer should contribute to the quality of the student's application essay, another plus in an application.

There are scholarships available for graduate work on projects in the PSLC. The student should inquire about these possibilities during the summer apprenticeship.

Finally, a summer spent in one of the National Science Foundation's premier project areas is a plus in an application whether it be for entry to Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pittsburgh or to any other institution.

7. Program Provisions (transportation, housing, food, stipend etc): See above
8. Program Dates: Students may start their projects on Monday June 1, 2009 and finish on Friday July 24, 2009. Submission of an application indicates that the applicant agrees to be present from June 1 to 4pm, July 24 2009 inclusive. They are expected to be present on Sunday evening, May 31, 2009 for a welcoming reception and information session.
9. Application Deadline: Deadline for applications is January 31, 2009. Students will be informed of our decision by March 1, 2009.
10. Minimum Requirements: Students 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 capable of doing the work 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.

11. Number of slots/ positions available: The PSLC can accommodate as many as 10 positions, although in any given year, we may decide to fund less than 10 applicants
12. Funding Source (if applicable): National Science Foundation
13. Partner Institutions: Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Learning Company, the Carnegie Speech Company.

For more information see: <http://www.learnlab.org/>

Send completed applications to:

PSLC - Summer Internship Program
c/o Jo Bodnar

jobodnar@cs.cmu.edu

3529 Newell-Simon Hall - HCII
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Application for Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center Internship

Name:

Permanent address:

Current address:

Email:

Phone:

University where you are a student:

Major:

This year, are you a:

Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Other (explain) :

Latest SAT scores Verbal: Math:

Present GPA:

Are you a US citizen? Yes ___ No ___ If not, what is your visa status for summer 2008?

Please include the following:

- official transcript
- a copy of your latest SAT score report
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from someone you have taken a course from at your university)
- resume
- Statement: Why would you like to work within the PSLC this summer? Is there a project that you see on our website that you are interested in? What will you do to foster diversity within the PSLC?

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 1, 2009 to July 24, 2009 inclusive.

[your signature and printed name]

[date]

The following information is used for tracking and reporting purposes only and will not be used in the selection process. You are not obliged to answer these questions and the presence or absence of an answer will have no bearing on the selection process.

Male ___ Female ____

African American ___ Asian Pacific Islander ___ Native American/Alaskan ___
Hispanic ___ Caucasian ___ Other ___
