

Who is eligible to apply?

Students who are **current juniors, attending an SFUSD school or SF charter and from a background considered underrepresented in the sciences** (individuals from racial/ethnic groups typically underrepresented in the sciences, individuals with disabilities, first-generation college students, individuals who reside with families who are low income or otherwise considered disadvantaged, individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+). Further explanation and definitions of underrepresented are offered at the end of this document.

When is the application due?

Friday, February 11th by 11:59pm

What do I need to include in my application?

1. Completed electronic application form
2. Resume
3. Essay
4. Letter of recommendation- one required, you may submit up to two

How do I submit the application?

Submit all elements of your application, except the letter of recommendation, [online](#). Upload your resume and essay at the end of the online application. Letters of recommendation should be submitted **by the recommender**. [Give your recommender\(s\) this document](#), which includes instructions for what to submit and how to submit it.

How do you select students?

We read every application very carefully and use each component of the application to inform our decision. Through the application, tell us about why we should select you. ***We don't use grades or academic achievement as an indicator of potential success in this program.*** Instead, we want to know that you have some interest in science and that this program could help make a difference in your life. The ideal candidate will show us:

- Evidence of maturity and responsibility
- Evidence of persistence through challenges
- Science interest
- Motivation to participate in this program

How many students do you interview and accept?

We typically interview 50 students for 25 available positions.

When will I know if I'm accepted into the program?

We will notify students via email in April.

If I'm accepted, do I get to choose which research project I do?

Sort of. Each summer, different scientists participate as mentors in the High School Intern Program. This means that we don't usually know which research projects will be available until late spring. However, prior to beginning their internship, each intern meets two prospective mentors and gives feedback to the program coordinators about those meetings and research interests. Ultimately, the program coordinators make final lab placement decisions based on that feedback, schedules, lab locations, and other considerations.

Can I participate in other summer programs if I do this one?

This is not advisable. Participation in this program includes working in the laboratory with your mentor, meetings with other interns and program staff, meetings with college counselors, and attending career talks. Though this is not a homework-heavy program, there will be assignments and other independent work required. If an applicant needs to participate in summer school, has extensive family obligations, or needs to work another job, these circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine acceptance into the program.

Why do you use the status of "underrepresented in science" as eligibility criteria?

The Science and Health Education Partnership's commitment to increasing equity in STEM is reflected in our eligibility requirements for the High School Intern Program. Specifically, we prioritize the acceptance of students from backgrounds underrepresented in this field who want to know what a career in biomedical science and health might look like. As stated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "In spite of tremendous advancements in scientific research, information, education, and research opportunities are not equally available to all", and they identify individuals from the groups below as nationally underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

- Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander.
- Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:
 - Were or currently are homeless
 - Were or currently are in the foster care system
 - Were/are eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years
 - Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree
 - Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants
 - Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child
 - Grew up in a U.S. rural area or a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas

In addition to the NIH definitions, we also include individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ as underrepresented. [Access data and further explanations here.](#)