Applications

1. When does the application open?
   • Our application will be available online on December 5th, 2019
   • You may start filling in your application by December 5th, 2019. HOWEVER, your application will
     NOT be accepted until you send an updated unofficial transcript with your Fall 2019 grades.

2. When is the application deadline?
   • The application deadline is Friday, February 28th, 2020 by 5:00 PM (PST).
   • All documents, including letters of recommendation attached to the confidential form must be
     submitted by the deadline. Any documents or forms turned in after the deadline will not be accepted
     and your application will be marked as incomplete.

3. Are unofficial transcripts accepted?
   • Yes, you may submit unofficial transcript(s) from SDSU/UCSD and all other colleges you’ve
     attended if their GPAs are included in your overall GPA calculation on your SDSU transcript
   • Official transcripts are required if GPAs from other college coursework are not included in the
     calculation of overall GPA from SDSU.
   • Please note: Fall 2019 grades must be included in your submitted application.

4. How can my recommender submit his letter of recommendation?
   • All letters need to be attached and submitted with our confidential reference form using the Qualtrics
     survey listed in the application website at http://sci.sdsu.edu/cccp/apply/
   • We recommend you send your recommender the link to our survey, along with your full name, major,
     and email that you will use to apply for our program. They will need to fill that information in our
     confidential reference form link.

5. Who should I ask to write my recommendation letters?
   • The most relevant letters are those from faculty/academic advisers who know you well and can
     attest to your interest and capacity for scientific research, such as research mentors and professors
     of your science/major related courses.
   • At least one of these references must be from a faculty member within your field of study, OR an
     academic advisor from a program such as EOP, MESA, Compact Scholars, etc. who knows you well
     and can attest of your interest in scientific research.
   • If you have participated in a research project, one of the letters would likely be from your research
     director/supervisor.
   • Teaching assistants (TAs) or graduate/postdoctoral students will not count towards the
     faculty/academic advisor reference requirement (first letter), but may count as your second letter of
     recommendation.
   • Work/volunteer supervisors are welcomed to write your second letter of recommendation.
   • Fall 2019/Spring 2020 Transfer Students: Please note, letters written by faculty/academic advisors
     from your community college years will count towards your first letter requirement.

6. When do I find out if I have been accepted?
   • Those selected for an interview will be notified in early-March
   • Official selections will be announced mid-March
Eligibility

7. Can Freshmen apply?
   - No, we will not consider applications from freshmen or first-year students. There are no exceptions to this rule.

8. I am an international student. Am I eligible for the program?
   - No, all program participants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

9. I’m a senior, graduating on May 2020, am I eligible for the program?
   - No, only undergraduate students with one year or more remaining before graduation are eligible to apply.

10. I’m a graduate student, am I eligible?
    - No, our program is currently open only to undergraduate students.

11. I’m a community college student, but plan on transferring to SDSU/UCSD in the Fall of 2020, can I apply?
    a. No, only students that are currently attending SDSU or UCSD are eligible for our program.
    b. If you’re transferring to SDSU or UCSD in the Fall of 2020, you may be eligible to participate in the Creating Scientist Program: https://medschool.ucsd.edu/research/moores/research/Pages/Summer-Science-Enrichment-Program.aspx

12. Do you accept students that are not interested in entering a graduate program in biomedical research science (MS, PhD), professional health (e.g. MD, DO, MSN, RN), public health (MPH), or behavioral health after graduation?
    - No, only students who are interested in a biomedical research science, professional health, public health, or behavioral health graduate programs are eligible to apply.

13. I’m a student that is not from an underrepresented community per NCI standards, can I apply?
    - No, we are recruiting undergraduate students from SDSU and UCSD from underrepresented communities, per NCI standards. Only students who apply to 1 or more of the following groups may apply:
      i. individuals with disabilities
      ii. individuals from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
      iii. first-generation college students
      iv. underrepresented racial and ethnic groups: African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

14. How do I know if I qualify as a socioeconomically disadvantaged/low income student?
    a. You’re considered socioeconomically disadvantaged/low income, according to NCI standards if you:
      i. Come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-research
      ii. Qualified for free or reduced fee school lunch K-12: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnp/fr-032019
      iii. Are currently enrolled in the Cal Fresh (food stamps) program: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/food_stamps.html
      iv. Were awarded Cal Grant A, B, or C entitlement awards: https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/paying-for-college/financial-aid/types/Pages/cal-grants.aspx
      v. Are a former foster youth
      vi. Are/were members of the Educational Opportunity Programs and Ethnic Affairs (EOP) http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/EOP/
      vii. Are/were members of the Guardian Scholars (GS) Program https://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/EOP/Modern/Guardian_Scholars.html

15. Who qualifies as a first-generation college student?
    - You qualify as a first-generation college student if neither of your parents/guardians holds a degree from a four-year U.S. college or university.
    - If your parents obtained higher education degrees outside of the U.S., you are considered a first-generation college student per our program’s policies.
Summer Program

16. When does the summer program take place?
17. The 2020 summer program runs from June 15th, 2020 to August 18th, 2020 (approx. 9-weeks).

18. How much will I be paid?
   • Payment for the summer program will be determined in Spring 2019, upon budget revisions. Last year scholars were paid $5,400 for their 9-week full-time commitment to our program.
   • Accepted students will be paid in installments every 2-weeks upon start of the summer program.

19. Are there any required events outside of the summer program?
   • Yes, we have 2 events outside of our 9-week period:
     i. Orientation: held 1-2 weeks before the start of the summer program
     ii. End of Summer Presentations: Held 3-4 weeks after the end of the internship
   • Please plan accordingly to attend both events if accepted to the program. Participation is mandatory for all accepted students.

20. How are lab placements made?
   • Accepted students will be given a list of potential mentors by early-mid April, who will then submit a list of 3 potential mentors they would like to work with (not ranked).
   • Our program will then discuss each potential mentor and match students based on their research interests and academic goals.
   • SDSU students will be given a priority with UCSD mentors, and vice versa.

21. Can I take classes while in the program?
   • No. The program is rigorous and a significant time commitment. Participants are expected to work full-time (35hrs/week spent in lab plus 2-3 hrs/wk of program activities) for the duration of the program.
   • Activities that would prevent you from such a commitment (classes, extended vacations, additional jobs, etc.) are not permitted.

22. Is a meal plan provided?
   • No. Some meals are provided at program events, but students are largely responsible for covering their own food expenses.

23. Will housing be provided?
   • No, housing will not be provided through our program. We recommend you look for housing opportunities for the summer through SDSU and UCSD programs if needed.

Academic 2020-2021 Year (Upon Grant Renewal for 2020-2024)- SDSU Students Only

24. Who is eligible to participate in the Fall/Spring program?
   • Only accepted students from the summer program are eligible to continue in the program the following academic year.

25. What are the work requirements for the Fall/Spring?
   • Students are required to spend approx. 10 hrs./week in their labs (plus any program activities) for the Fall/Spring semesters. This may be subject of change upon the program’s director’s decision.

26. How much will I be paid for the Fall/Spring semesters?
   • Our Fall/Spring semester stipend will be determined upon our grant renewal in the summer/fall of 2020.
   • Last year scholars were paid a stipend of $1,500 per semester ($3,000 total per academic year).
   • Continuing students will be paid in 2 installments per semester (mid-semester and at the end of the semester).

27. What happens if I'm accepted into the summer program but do not wish to continue doing research in the academic year?
   • If you do not wish to continue doing research during the academic year, you’re still eligible to continue with us as an affiliated scholar.
   • Affiliated scholars are not eligible for the financial stipend, but are welcomed to participate in all PSP activities.