

# 2022 Partnership Scholars Program

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### Application

- 1. When does the application open?**
  - Our application will be available online on **December 17, 2021**
- 2. When is the application deadline?**
  - The application deadline has been extended to **Friday, March 4, by 11:59 PM (PST)**.
  - All documents, including letters of recommendation attached to the confidential form, must be submitted by the deadline.
- 3. How many students will be selected for the program?**
  - 12 SDSU (Imperial Valley and San Diego campus) and 2 UCSD undergraduates will be selected for the 2021 cohort.
  - Incoming Fall 2022, SDSU or UCSD transfer students can also apply for our program.
- 4. When do I find out if I have been selected for the program?**
  - Applicants considered for an interview will be notified of it in mid-March.
  - Official selections will be announced in early April.
- 5. The application website mentions I can obtain a personalized link for the PSP Application Form to fill out and save my work later. How can I get this personalized link?**
  - To obtain a personalized link, email Mercedes Quintana-Serrano, Partnership Scholars Coordinator, at [mquintanarerrano@sdsu.edu](mailto:mquintanarerrano@sdsu.edu)
  - The coordinator's office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
  - We strongly recommend applicants request a personalized link for the application to save their responses and continue later through any laptop, browser, or mobile device.
  - We cannot assure your answers will be saved to continue later through our website's generic survey link. Saved responses using the generic application link are kept through cookies in your browser, which may be lost in the application process.
- 6. What do I need to prepare to successfully submit my application to the program?**
  - **You will need to prepare the following:**
    - i. **Transcripts-** to be submitted in your PSP Application Form. Please prepare a single PDF in chronological order of all the institutions attended (starting freshmen college year to recent).
    - ii. **2021/22 Financial Aid Award Statement** - Submit a copy of your current year Award Statement (PDF format), if applicable, from [www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao/index.html](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/fao/index.html) (SDSU) or <https://students.ucsd.edu/finances/financial-aid/> (UCSD).
    - iii. **Personal Statement-** submitted in our PSP Application Form in PDF format. See our website for more information on what your Personal Statement should include. We recommend keeping your Statement to two pages, single-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12pt Arial font.
    - iv. **Two References-** List the contact information in your PSP Application Form of the people who will write your letter of recommendation. Please see questions 8 and 9 for more details.
- 7. Are unofficial transcripts accepted?**
  - Yes, we encourage all students to submit their 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/UCSD transcript.
  - All transcripts must be submitted in a single PDF file in chronological order, starting with the first transcript from the college you attended in your freshman year and ending with the university you're currently attending (SDSU/UCSD).
  - **Please note: Fall 2021 grades must be included in your transcripts.**

**8. How can my recommender submit his/her/their letter of recommendation (LoR)?**

- All LoR's need to be attached and submitted with our confidential reference form using the Qualtrics survey listed on 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 school email (SDSU/UCSD) or personal email (if you are a community college student). They will need that information to fill in your confidential reference form.
- All LoR's must be submitted to Qualtrics by **March 4, 2022, by 11:59 PM (PST)**.

**9. Who should I ask to write my LoR's?**

- The most relevant letters are from faculty or staff who know you well and can attest to your interest and capacity for scientific research, such as academic advisors, counselors, research mentors, and professors of your science/major-related courses.
- **At least one** of the letters of recommendation needs to be from an SDSU/UCSD faculty or staff member within your field of study (or from a STEM/Public Health-related field) who can address your academic and personal suitability for this program. Transfer students may ask faculty/staff from their current/previous community college institution to write their academic LoR.
- Teacher assistants, work managers, volunteer leaders, and others may be considered for the second letter of recommendation.

## Eligibility

**10. I am a student from the Imperial Valley SDSU campus. Am I eligible to apply for the program?**

- **Yes.** We highly encourage students from SDSU's Imperial Valley campus to apply for our program

**11. I do not have any research experience. Am I eligible to apply?**

- **Yes.** We highly encourage all students (regardless of research experience) to apply for our program.

**12. I am an SDSU Imperial Valley student, and I will not have transportation to commute to San Diego, CA, in the summer. OR I am currently enrolled at SDSU/UCSD but will be out of the county for the summer. Can I still participate in the internship?**

- **Yes.** Our summer internship will be a hybrid program. Students will have the opportunity to attend our weekly summer educational sessions and engage in research experiences in-person or online.
- If you cannot reside in San Diego, CA, or cannot commute to San Diego, CA, during the summer, please let us know of it in your Personal Statement. Research experiences online may be limited, depending on faculty mentor availability and types of research projects.

**13. I am a Freshman. Can I apply for the program this year?**

- **No.** We will not consider applications from newcomers' students who have not completed at least 50 units before entering our program (i.e., complete 50+ units by Spring 2022).
- Our research internship is intensive and requires all students to complete all (or nearly all) major-prep/pre-major courses before starting our summer internship.

**14. I am not a US citizen or permanent resident. Can I still apply to the program?**

- **No.** All program participants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

**15. I'm a senior, graduating in the Spring of 2022/Summer 2022/Fall 2022. Am I eligible for the program?**

- **No.** Only continuing undergraduate students with one full academic year or more can apply.
- Seniors must graduate in Spring 2023 or after to be eligible for the 2022/23 cohort.

**16. I'm a graduate student. Am I eligible to apply?**

- **No.** Our program is currently open only to undergraduate students.

**17. I'm a community college student but plan on transferring to SDSU/UCSD in the Fall of 2022. Can I apply?**

- **Yes.** If you are a community college student who has applied to transfer to SDSU and/or UCSD for Fall 2022 admission, you can apply for our program.
- **Selection for our program is conditional.** We will require transfer students to submit proof of enrollment into an SDSU or UCSD campus before our summer internship.
- If the student does not show proof of enrollment into SDSU or UCSD before starting our internship, the offer will be rescinded.

**18. Do you accept students that are not interested in pursuing a career in STEM, healthcare, public health, social work, and other jobs connected to oncology?**

- **No.** Only students who are pursuing a career in STEM, healthcare, public health, and other jobs connected to oncology **and** have a goal of obtaining a graduate degree(s) in a research-based STEM research-based field (MS, Ph.D.), public health (MPH), pharmacology (PharmD), social work (MSW), clinical psychology (PsyD), health professional degree (e.g., P.A., RN, MSN, DNP, M.D., D.O.) or other certificate programs related to oncology (i.e., Certified Genetic Counselor) are eligible to apply for this program.

**19. I'm a student that is not from an underrepresented community. Can I apply?**

- **No.** To be eligible, you must be a member of **one** or more of the following underrepresented groups:
  - i. Individuals with a documented permanent disability (ies), such as physical or mental impairments, substantially limiting major life activities.
  - ii. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups: African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders
  - iii. First-generation college students (i.e., parents/guardians do not hold a degree from a four-year college or university)
  - iv. Individuals from a low-income background or grew up in a social, cultural, or educational environment where you did not have access to the knowledge, skills, or abilities that facilitate opportunities to participate in research careers.

**20. How do I know if I qualify as an individual from a low-income background or who grew up in a social, cultural, or educational environment where I did not have access to the knowledge, skills, or abilities that facilitate opportunities to participate in research careers?**

- a. There are many ways to qualify as an individual from a low-income background or as an individual who lacked access to opportunities to participate in research careers, such as:
  - i. Are a former foster youth
  - ii. Have a household income at or below the 50% Area Median Income (AMI) for the San Diego County: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/sdhcd/rental-assistance/income-limits-ami/>
  - iii. Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or VA Disability Compensation: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/> or <https://www.va.gov/disability/>
  - iv. Are currently enrolled in the Cal Fresh/EBT (food stamps) program: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/food\\_stamps.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/food_stamps.html)
  - v. 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>
  - vi. Are/were members of the Educational Opportunity Programs and Ethnic Affairs (EOP) or UCSD OASIS: <http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/EOP/> or <https://oasis.ucsd.edu/>
  - vii. Are/were members of the Guardian Scholars (G.S.) Program
  - viii. Were awarded the CalVet Fee waiver: <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/pages/college-fee-waiver.aspx>
  - ix. Were awarded GI Bill® and other education benefits: <https://www.va.gov/education/eligibility/>
  - x. Receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31): <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>
  - xi. Participated in the free or reduced school lunch K-12 program: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/child-nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program/>

**21. 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 college or university.

## Summer Program

**22. When does the summer program take place?**

- The 2022 summer program runs from **June 13 to August 16, 2022**. It is a full-time program: Monday to Friday, 40 hrs./wk.

**23. Will this be an online or physical internship?**

- Our internship be a hybrid program. Students will have the opportunity to attend our weekly summer educational sessions and activities and engage in research experiences in-person or online.

**24. How much will I be paid?**

- Each scholar will be awarded a \$4,000 stipend for their participation in the program, paid in installments every 2-weeks upon the summer program's start.

**25. 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's leaders will match students based on their research interests and academic goals.
- SDSU students will be given priority with UCSD faculty and vice versa.

**26. Are there any required events/activities outside the summer program?**

- **No.**

**27. Am I allowed to take summer classes or participate in other internships while in the program?**

- **It depends.** The program is rigorous and a significant time commitment. Participants are expected to work full-time with us during regular work hours (e.g., 8 am – 5 pm).
- Activities that would prevent you from committing full-time to our 9-week summer program (e.g., classes, jobs, study abroad experiences, extended vacations, etc.) are not permitted.

**28. Is a meal plan provided?**

- **No.** Some meals will be provided at program events, but students are primarily responsible for covering their food expenses.

**29. 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 2022/23 Year Internship (Pending Funding)

**30. What are the dates for the academic 2022/23 internship?**

- Pending funding, we expect our academic interns to start on **September 1, 2022**, and end on **May 18, 2023**.

**31. Who is eligible to participate in the Fall/Spring internship?**

- Only students participating in our summer internship can continue the following academic year.

**32. What are the work requirements for the Fall/Spring?**

- Students are required to spend 10-15 hrs./wk. In cancer-related research projects and program activities for the Fall/Spring semesters.

**33. How much will I be paid for the Fall/Spring semesters?**

- Our Fall/Spring semester stipend, pending funding, will be determined at the end of the Summer. Last year, scholars were paid a stipend of **\$2000** per semester (**\$4,000** total per academic year).
- Continuing students will be paid in bi-weekly installments throughout the academic year.

**34. What happens if I'm accepted into the summer program but cannot continue my academic year's research internship?**

- If you cannot continue into the academic year's research internship due to personal or educational reasons, you are eligible to continue in the program as an **affiliated scholar**.
- Affiliated scholars are not eligible for a financial stipend. Still, they are encouraged to participate in all PSP activities (including national/regional conferences) and continue receiving guidance on research presentations/conference attendance, graduate school applications, etc.

## Do you have additional questions?

Please email Mercedes Quintana-Serrano, PSP coordinator, at [mquintanaserrano@sdsu.edu](mailto:mquintanaserrano@sdsu.edu) OR schedule an appointment to meet with her virtually: <https://doodle.com/mm/mercedesquintanaserrano/book-a-time>