

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences-Leadership Alliance 2011 Summer Research Program for Students from Historically Underrepresented Groups May 29 – August 5, 2011

The Columbia University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) is pleased to announce the Summer Research Program for undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups. The goal of the program is to prepare students for doctoral study in a particular area of interest. The program provides an opportunity for promising minority undergraduates to work with Columbia GSAS faculty in specific research areas. [Note: this program is not intended to provide preparation for professional schools (e.g. business, education, engineering, journalism, medical, law, social work).]

Program Description

The Summer Research Program (SRP) for undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups began at the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) in 1989. Each summer since, promising undergraduate students from all over the United States have participated in an eight to ten week summer internship program conducting graduate-level research under the supervision of a Columbia University faculty mentor.

The program has a dual purpose: to expose underrepresented students to graduate-level academic research so that they can begin to view the academy as a viable and realistic career path and to address the shortage of underrepresented minorities in doctoral study.

The program's philosophy is that early exposure to research in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences fosters a deeper knowledge of the particular field and, in turn, encourages students to develop their interests into academic careers. Additionally, the program promotes and develops skills that are necessary for success in doctoral study as students receive an introduction to the rigors and pleasures of advanced academic work.

The academic standard set attempts to challenge students to elevate their performance in all phases of research to that of a graduate student in the same field. Thus, the program is designed to approximate graduate study, particularly in mentor relationships, scholarly research, and independent living.

The Academic Journey

In addition to taking part in research, SRP students will take part in a number of other opportunities including weekly seminars and workshops, symposia and a number of group activities both on and off campus.

Faculty & Research

Each student will undertake a discipline-appropriate summer research project in collaboration with an assigned faculty mentor. Many will find themselves integrated into ongoing research, working closely with faculty and graduate students.



The Columbia Morningside Heights and Medical Center campuses are easily accessible by public transportation.

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Weekly Seminars & Workshops

In addition to taking part in research, interns will participate in weekly seminars and workshops. Topics include tutorials on the graduate school application process, oral presentation for symposia and the *Scholarly Journey* series, in which advanced Columbia graduate students, faculty and professionals with doctorate degrees share their intellectual biographies, offer advice and discuss opportunities in academia and the private sector. During the weekly seminars, students will have regular opportunities to discuss their research projects.

Meetings

Meetings with staff and mentors provide an informal setting for discussions of varied topics, such as opportunities in academia as well as the nature and rewards of a career in academics and/or research.

Symposia

Students will present their research to faculty, graduate students and administrators at the *Columbia Symposium*. Students will also present their research at the annual *Leadership Alliance National Symposium*. The Alliance is a consortium of 32 colleges and universities, including Columbia, committed to the goal of increasing the number of historically underrepresented groups in higher education.

Fellowship

Accommodations: Housing will be provided on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus for the duration of the program (May 29 – August 5, 2011). All SRP students are required to reside on campus for the entire program.

Transportation: Reasonable transportation costs to and from Columbia University, up to \$400, will be covered if necessary.
Stipend: Students will receive a stipend of \$3,750 to help cover living expenses and two 30-day unlimited ride MetroCards, which can be used on public buses and subways throughout the city.

NOTE: No meal plan is provided, but all weekly meetings, seminars, workshops, and special events are catered.



The Manhattan skyline serves as a backdrop for the light green roofs and iconic Low Library dome of Columbia's Morningside Heights campus.

Columbia application procedure

Columbia Application Process and Requirements

The Leadership Alliance application deadline is February 1; students may also apply to the Columbia program with a Columbia application, which is due February 18. We will review all applications from either source, but **encourage applicants to complete both applications. Applicants who submit a Leadership Alliance application do not need to provide duplicates of their transcripts or recommendation letters.**

A complete Columbia application will include:

- 1) Completed Columbia GSAS SRP application form
- 2) Two evaluation letters from faculty
- 3) Official academic transcript(s) from all undergraduate institutions
- 4) Statement of purpose
(3 pages max. See statement guidelines)
- 5) Resume/Curriculum Vitae
(Include honors, awards, & other recognitions)

Students may **request a Columbia application** by emailing Barbara Nesmith, Ph.D. at bsn2107@columbia.edu. Please include your full name, school, year of study, and major when requesting an application.

Eligibility

The program seeks college students who have a passion for scholarly or scientific research and demonstrate academic promise in research and/or teaching in the sciences and selected disciplines within the humanities and social sciences.

- Entering Junior or Senior year in fall 2011
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher
- Potential for doctoral study in proposed field; transcript should demonstrate course work in proposed area of research.

Consideration is given to applicants from historically underrepresented groups that include but are not limited to:

- Black/African American
- Dominican
- Mexican/Chicano(a)
- Native American/Alaska Native
- Puerto Rican
- Low income, first generation college student

Guidelines for Columbia Statement of Purpose

Please provide a statement of purpose that is no longer than three typed, double-spaced pages. In your statement, please address the following:

- a) What is your motivation for applying to the Summer Research Program?
- b) Discuss previous research or academic project(s):
 - Issue/question you examined and what makes it important
 - Methodology you used
 - Findings and significance
- c) Discuss proposed area of research according to the guidelines listed below. Indicate prior experience with the research topic, if relevant, or how it is connected with your overall research interest.
- d) Describe your future education and/or career goals and explain how participation in SRP is relevant to these goals.

Natural Science students may indicate three labs (from their department website searches) in which they would like to conduct research. (Please explain how working in these particular laboratories relates to your research interests or experience. [Note: Program administrators will make the final determination of laboratory placement and use student selections to help guide this decision.]

Humanities and Social Science students should look at the Mellon SRP Seminar description below and try to identify the department or program, subfields, and research areas of interest in relation to the Mellon Seminar themes.

In 2011, The Columbia GSAS Summer Research Program will focus on the research areas shown in the attached list.

Students are also advised to contact Barbara Nesmith, Ph.D. (bsn2107@columbia.edu; 212-854-3791) at The GSAS Office of Diversity prior to the Columbia deadline to discuss their applications and possible faculty placements.

Columbia University

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences–Leadership Alliance Summer Research Program

2011 GSAS Summer Research Program Departments

The GSAS-Leadership Alliance SRP program expects to offer research internships with faculty from the GSAS departments or programs listed below. Applicants should identify the GSAS departments or programs that most closely match their preparation and research interests in their Columbia application. **Applicants should not contact the faculty directly, but may address questions regarding research placements or program details to Barbara Nesmith (bsn2107@columbia.edu), the GSAS Summer Research Program Coordinator.**

Humanities

- **English and Comparative Literature** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/english/>)
- **Latin American and Iberian Cultures** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/spanish/>)
- **Philosophy** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/philosophy/>)

Social Sciences

- **Anthropology** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/anthropology/>)
- **History** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/history/>)
- **Political Science** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/polisci/>)
- **Sociology** (<http://www.sociology.columbia.edu/>)

Natural Sciences

- **Astronomy and Astrophysics** (<http://www.astro.columbia.edu/>)
- **Biological Sciences** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/>)
- **Chemistry** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/chemistry/>)
- **Earth and Environmental Sciences** (<http://eesc.columbia.edu/>)
- **Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology** (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/e3b/>)
- **Mathematics** (*theoretical, pure*) (<http://www.math.columbia.edu/>)
- **Physics** (*theoretical, experimental*) (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/physics/>)
- **Psychology** (*psychobiology, cognitive, social personality, neuroscience, sensation and perception only*) (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/psychology/>)
- **Statistics** (<http://www.stat.columbia.edu/>)

Biomedical Sciences

(see http://sklad.cumc.columbia.edu/gsas/interior.php?sub=4_0 for an overview of the integrated Biomedical Sciences programs and PhD programs for more information on departments, Ph.D. programs, and sub-fields)

- **Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics** (<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/gsas/biochem/>)
- **Biomedical Informatics** (http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/gsas/ac_programs/minformatics_frame.html)
- **Cell & Molecular Biology** (http://cait.cpmc.columbia.edu:88/www/mark/pathology/education/graduate/cell_molecular.html)
- **Cellular Physiology and Biophysics** (http://www.physiology.columbia.edu/graduate_program.html)
- **Genetics and Development** (<http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/genetics/train.html>)
- **Microbiology and Immunology** (<http://www.microbiology.columbia.edu/>)
- **Neurobiology and Behavior** (<http://neurosciencephd.columbia.edu/?page=14>)
- **Nutritional and Metabolic Biology** (http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/ihn/programs/ihn_programs0003.html)
- **Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine** (<http://pathology.columbia.edu/education/graduate/>)
- **Pharmacology and Molecular Signaling** (<http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/gsas/pharm/traintoc.html>)

Additional Columbia University Summer Research Programs for Undergraduates

Biology

Columbia University/Barnard College Amgen Scholars Summer Research Program

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/amgen/>

Chemistry

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/chemistry/undergrad/REU/index.html>

Earth and Environmental Sciences

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/education/programs/summer-internship>

Engineering & Materials, Environmental Molecular Sciences, and Nanotechnology

<http://research.radlab.columbia.edu/ise/reu.php>

Physics

<http://www.nevis.columbia.edu/reu/>

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

2011 GSAS-Leadership Alliance Summer Research Program
May 29 – August 5

**The 2011 Mellon SRP Seminar for Humanities and Social Science students:
New Perspectives on Immigration, Citizenship, Cultural Identity, and Civil Rights Struggles in the Americas**

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Stephen Mintz, Director, GSAS Teaching Center, and Professor, Department of History

We will explore the shifting ways that individuals have conceived and experienced their identity and their relationship to larger communities. We are especially interested in the ways that identity has been defined along--and across--racial, sex/gender, age/generational, ethnic, geographic, religious, and national lines. We will also investigate the various subcultures and countercultures that offer alternative forms of artistic expression and values and that have repeatedly challenged and transformed dominant cultures.

For the 2011 Mellon SRP Seminar we seek sophomores, juniors, or seniors (with at least one semester remaining) majoring in the humanities or social sciences who are considering pursuing a PhD degree in a related field. Faculty mentors and doctoral candidates from the Humanities and Social Sciences departments will work with Mellon Summer Research Program Fellows on an individual research project related to the themes that Fellows will explore in the 2011 Mellon Seminar. We will review all SRP applications, but expect to offer research opportunities in the following fields: English and Comparative Literature, Spanish and Portuguese, Philosophy, Anthropology, History, Political Science, and Sociology. Applicants for the Mellon Seminar should identify which department or program in the Columbia University GSAS best matches their preparation and research interests, and then try to identify potential topics or research questions for their summer research project.



SRP Fellows present their research at the end of the summer to Columbia faculty and invited guests at a campus symposium and at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium. The 2010 SRP Sciences Cohort (left) and Political Science Cohort (right) gathered for group portraits with their graduate student mentors after the 2010 Columbia Symposium.