

Interested in hosting and mentoring a Foothill College student at your company, institution, organization, or workplace?

The Science Learning Institute (SLI) at Foothill College is seeking internship placements for students in STEM disciplines for summer work-based learning and research experiences. **Internships run from 7/8/24 – 9/6/24.**

Program Overview

[Foothill College](#) is one of 116 California community colleges, located in Los Altos Hills. Foothill enrolls 16,000 students from nearby communities and beyond. The [Science Learning Institute \(SLI\)](#) seeks to advance equity in STEM at Foothill College in our surrounding communities by supporting students from underrepresented groups in STEM to pursue their academic and career goals.

The Foothill Science Learning Institute (SLI) STEM Summer Internship program is a paid opportunity for Foothill College students to work with a mentor/ supervisor on research projects and in the workplace. **To advance SLI's mission, this internship program prioritizes students who are first-generation, low-income students of color and who have not had a prior internship. With these characteristics in mind, we place students who have a desire and curiosity to learn and enthusiasm to give this experience their best effort.**

The goals of the internship program are as follows: Foothill College students will

- Gain hands-on, job-related skills in the relevant discipline.
- Gain exposure to work/ research that may influence their career paths.
- Be mentored by a mentor-supervisor who can provide support and insight in the working world.
- Have a community of support among the other interns in the program.
- Build their professional network for future employment opportunities.

Placement Overview

There is some flexibility to consider as you fill out the internship placement application, depending on your context. Please read on for more guidance as you consider this commitment:

Good fit for you if...	You're a grad student, postdoctoral researcher, or company employee who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is interested in mentoring • has a commitment to diversifying STEM, and • seeks support on your research or industry project in a STEM discipline.
Company/ mentor commitment	A dedicated mentor-supervisor to commit 7 – 8 hours per week in meetings and support for the intern for the 9 week internship (7/8 – 9/6/24).
Benefit to YOU	You gain support on your research or work and build a positive mentoring relationship with a student with the potential that they could continue with your lab or company after this summer internship.
Student intern commitment	You will choose your preference of 15 or 20 hours per week for the student commitment. This includes a weekly check in with you, the mentor, as well as any other time the student spends working.

Having Foothill SLI interns with Esperanto was a great experience for everyone involved. The students were smart, dedicated, inquisitive, and brought new energy to our engineering laboratory. We are now testing out one of the most sophisticated new AI Chips in the world, and the SLI interns helped lay the groundwork for this effort in the test lab.

-Art Swift, President & CEO of Esperanto

Monetary compensation	Students will receive a stipend of either \$2600 (15 hrs/ wk) or \$3500 (20 hrs/ wk) depending on the hours per week. SLI asks you to partner on the stipend – either covering half or all of the stipend if you are able. Mentors will receive an optional \$250 honorarium – this is for graduate students and postdoc researchers only.
Modality considerations	Possibilities of fully remote, hybrid, or in-person . Please be clear in your application. Take into consideration that not all students have their own cars or financial means to pay for gas and/or parking. Hybrid options would be recommended with in-person options to allow for some kind of exposure to a lab or workspace. Please reach out to the SLI director if you would like to discuss.
Important dates	- Students all receive training on professional soft skills before the internship begins. - Internships run from Mon 7/8/24 through Fri 9/6/24 for a total of 9 weeks. - Final presentations (for interns) are held during the last week of the internship (Thurs 9/5 and Fri 9/6).
Who our students are	Students majoring in a range of STEM disciplines. We prioritize students with financial need and no prior internship experience to ensure we are supporting students who would not otherwise have opportunities such as this. Community college students are from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds – age, race, income level, community where they grew up, prior experience with school and work.

The Ideal Mentor/ Host Company

- You have a discrete project/ responsibilities that can be worked on in 9 weeks.
- You have a desire to mentor a community college student who may not have the same kinds of opportunities as students at a four-year research institution.
- You have a commitment to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM.
- You have time to make this commitment
 - Commit weekly time for planning, meeting with, and supporting your intern(s).
 - Stay in communication with the SLI staff team if issues arise.
 - Complete any administrative paperwork associated with the internship, including student learning objectives, a final evaluation, and feedback surveys.
 - Support student in putting together a final presentation as well as attending the final presentation at the end of the summer.

Process

1. **Mentor/ host applications must be submitted by Tuesday, 2/20/24** (rolling applications will be accepted **before** the deadline).
2. SLI staff will reach out for short conversations to review expectations and to confirm interest.
3. Students apply through SLI, making project selections in the application process.
4. The SLI team reviews the applications and gives you the choice of the following process:
 - a. SLI team selects your intern.
 - b. SLI team gives you 3 – 5 applications to review and select, with or without an interview.
5. The SLI team makes the final offer and confirms a match by the end of May.

