

Last Updated April 1, 2025

This is a general Frequently Asked Questions document for SLI's summer internship program. Some questions may vary depending on the type of internship, so for further explanation, please reach out to the SLI staff team.

APPLICATION-RELATED

- 1. What can I do to up my chances of getting an internship?**
 - a. **New for the summer 2025 program**, we will only be accepting students who
 - i. Are **first-generation college goers** (one or both parents did not finish college/university), and/or
 - ii. Are **low-income**, as seen in a FAFSA, CADAA, or personal statement, and
 - iii. Also meet the following:
 1. Have not had a prior internship.
 2. Don't have a previous bachelor's degree.
 3. Are 18 and over by the time the internship starts.
 4. Have Foothill College as their primary institution (not De Anza College).
 5. Are enrolled in at least 6 units for spring 2025 quarter.
 6. Are in good academic standing and have no holds or outstanding verification tasks on your account.
 - b. Just make sure you fill out the complete application, and make sure to spend some time on your My Story essay.
 - c. There's no other "formula" or advice to give about upping your chances of getting an internship. We wish you luck!
- 2. Can I use AI for my essays (My Story essay and interest paragraphs)?**
 - a. You may use AI to help you brainstorm your essays, but **DO NOT** use AI to fully write your answers. AI strips your voice and authenticity, so we want to read essays that are from **YOUR VOICE**.

ELIGIBILITY

- 3. I'm currently in high school, taking Foothill classes, am I eligible?**
 - a. You would need to be 18 or over at the time of the start of the internship.
 - b. We do not make exceptions for this requirement.
- 4. I'm not taking classes at Foothill the quarter before the internship happens, am I eligible?**
 - a. For the summer internship program - you need to have taken at least 6 units in the spring, before the summer. The basic premise is that you need to be a Foothill College student - not someone just dabbling or not in college. We do not require that you take any summer classes except for the ITRN course.
- 5. Am I eligible if I am an international student on a student visa?**
 - a. Yes! Make sure you have been a Foothill student for at least one academic year - 9 months, not counting summer. This is a requirement for CPT (curricular practical training).

- b. Also, make sure you are either a first-generation college goer (either or both of your parents did not graduate from college, whether in the U.S. or in a different country) and/or low-income. Since you are not able to apply for financial aid in the U.S., you will need to write a paragraph about your financial need - please be specific about your financial situation - if your family has financial resources in their home country, then you would not be considered low-income.
 - c. If you are accepted for an internship, it is your responsibility to reach out to the SLI staff team and the international office to complete any necessary paperwork and authorizations. See this [website](#) for more information.
- 6. I am an undocumented student, can I apply?**
- a. Yes! The way most students get paid is through the scholarship process, so work authorization or a social security number is not required for our internships. Don't let your immigration status deter you!
- 7. I'm transferring to a four year university in the fall, can I participate in the summer internship before I transfer?**
- a. Yes! You ARE expected to complete the whole internship, which runs until the first week in September. This includes doing a final presentation (which can be done in person or on Zoom). So take into consideration you may be starting classes as you are finishing up the last few weeks of your internship. Some mentors are willing to be flexible to adjust end dates. But **SLI will not adjust your doing your final presentation with the rest of the group in early September.**
- 8. I will be abroad during the internship, can I still participate?**
- a. No, you need to be living in California for the duration of the internship. The training before the program starts is in-person and there may be some other in-person events and activities during the summer. Also, being in a different time zone will be challenging and we cannot accommodate scheduling conflicts.
- 9. I'm a first year student, would I be eligible?**
- a. Yes! There are quite a few internships every cycle that just require enthusiasm and interest in the research/ topic/ work. Although there are definitely some internship placements which require certain skills and coursework, just know that there are also plenty of opportunities appropriate for someone who may have only taken a few STEM courses.
- 10. Do I need to be a STEM major?**
- a. No! You just have to be interested in the internship project, not just to add something to your resume but real genuine interest to get the most out of the experience.

ACCEPTANCE-RELATED

- 11. If I am offered more than one internship is there a possibility of doing more than one?**
- a. No, every student will have a maximum of one SLI internship at a time.

12. Will everyone who applies get an internship?

- a. No, we generally have between 20 - 30 placements each summer and more applicants than that. So just applying is not a guarantee of a placement.

13. How many people apply and are accepted each cycle?

- a. There is no set number of how many people apply each cycle.
- b. For the summer internships, we accept about 20 - 30 students.
- c. Some of our projects in the Project and Mentor Catalog do not get a student placed there because we have limited funding and capacity to support the above target numbers for our internship program each cycle.

REQUIREMENTS DURING THE INTERNSHIP

14. Which ITRN (Internship) course should I sign up for?

- a. First, do not sign up for the ITRN course until you are fully accepted to the internship program. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of time to sign up.
- b. All interns are required to sign up for the ITRN 50 class.
- c. If you have taken the ITRN 50 class before, please discuss the options with the SLI staff team.
- d. The different unit ITRN courses (50, 51, etc.) go along with how many hours your

15. Am I limited to the designated hours of the internship (for example 15 - 20 hours per week for the summer internship)?

- a. Yes. This is the arrangement we have agreed upon with the internship mentor partners. You will not get paid for hours you do on your own or extra, and you should not be asking your internship mentor for additional hours of work.

16. I looked at the ITRN course and it conflicts with one of the classes I am taking. Am I still eligible if I can't register for the ITRN course?

- a. The ITRN course requires just 2 synchronous Zoom meetings with the instructor. If your class conflicts, we work with the ITRN instructor so you can register for an asynchronous course, but you are still required to meet with the instructor - during a make up session that you arrange with her.