FOOTHILL COLLEGE
SCIENCE LEARNING INSTITUTE

Foothill STEM SLI Micro-Internships Winter 2023 – Mentor Overview

Interested in mentoring a Foothill College student in a STEM research project at your institution this winter?

Program Overview

The Foothill Science Learning Institute STEM Micro-Internship program is a paid opportunity for Foothill College students to work closely with a mentor from a local higher education institution in a short-term, discrete research project for the winter quarter (January 9 – March 24, 2023). The goals of the micro-internship are as follows: Foothill College students will

- Gain insight into what lab and institutional research entails.
- Work closely with a mentor to explore academic and professional goals.
- Gain research skills such as reading scientific articles, analyzing data, benchwork, and researching databases.

Mentors are recruited from local universities and are graduate students, post doctorate fellows, and staff who make a commitment to mentor a student for a quarter (11 weeks), supporting them in a short-term research project that relates to their work.

The program involves three main components to achieve the above three goals:

1. **Mentor match** – students are matched with a mentor – a graduate student, postdoc, staff member, or professor – and gain insight into research, lab meetings, and academic and career pathways.
2. **Hands-on experience** – students attend lab meetings and have a project to work on that contributes to the research of the lab where the mentor works. This component will consist of independent work such as reading articles, doing data analysis, or researching a topic. This can be virtual, in-person, or hybrid.
3. **Learning community** –students will be part of a small cohort, participating in shared learning through biweekly seminars.

Program Details

Start and end dates	Start week of 1/9/23 (when Foothill classes begin) End week of 3/20/23 (before finals) with a final presentation Total – 11 weeks	If the mentor's institution starts later than Jan 9th, we can discuss accommodations and hope that arrangements can be made to start when the program starts.
Time commitment	3 - 4 hours per week for mentors 6 – 7 hours per week for students	Hours include a weekly check in meeting between mentor and mentee, lab meeting attendance, and independent work for the mentor and mentee. Students will also be attending a biweekly cohort seminar for professional development.
Modality considerations	Possibilities of fully remote, hybrid, or in-person	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.

Monetary compensation	Students will receive a $1500 stipend Mentors will receive an optional $250 honorarium	If a lab or department has funds to help cost-share or supplement the monetary compensation for the students or mentors, please let us know!

Mentor Expectations

- You have a discrete project that can be worked on, and possibly completed, in 11 weeks. This could include doing data analysis, doing a literature search, testing hypotheses, working on an annotated bibliography.
- You have a desire to mentor a community college student who may be interested in your field or looking for research experience. If you have a community college background, that would be a plus!
- You have a commitment to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM.
- You have time to commit 3 - 4 hours a week for 11 weeks in
    - both planning and then meeting with your mentee to outline the project they will be working on
    - supporting them on working on the project and putting together a final presentation
    - supporting students in professional development – examples include connecting them with other grad students or faculty to talk to, sharing your own career path, attending events together
    - communicating with the SLI program staff and completing necessary program paperwork
    - attending a training before the program starts

Application Process

1. Mentors submit applications describing their proposed project by **Friday, Sept 23rd, 11:59pm.**
2. SLI staff reach out after receiving applications for 15 minute conversations to review expectations and to confirm interest. **Please keep an eye out for emails after you submit your application!**
3. Students are recruited in the fall.
4. Mentors are given the option to review student applications to pick whom they would like to work with OR give the decision-making authority to the Foothill SLI staff.
5. Matches are made in early December. At the same time, mentors attend a training. Matches are asked to have an informal meet up before the winter break.
6. The program will officially start the week of January 9th when the winter quarter starts for Foothill.

About Foothill College and the Science Learning Institute (SLI)

Foothill College is one of the 116 California community colleges, located in Los Altos Hills. Foothill has an incredibly diverse population of its estimated 16,000 students, drawing from the nearby communities of Los Altos, Palo Alto, Cupertino, and Sunnyvale, as well as from all over the South Bay and even to the east and north as well. The Science Learning Institute (SLI) is a resource for students on campus with the mission of advancing equity and diversity in STEM. Through a STEM learning community, internship programs, and resource gathering and dissemination, SLI looks to support students especially those from underrepresented groups, to pursue majors and careers in STEM.

If you are interested in the Foothill SLI STEM Micro-Internship program and have any questions, please reach out to SLI Director Sophia Kim at kimsophia@fhda.edu. Find out more at SLI's internship webpage: https://foothill.edu/sli/internships/schoolyear.html