The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) at Columbia University 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 their area of interest. The program provides an opportunity for promising minority undergraduates to work with Columbia GSAS faculty in specific research areas. The 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 Columbia’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 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 a 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 standards 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.

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 (June 2 – August 3, 2013). All SRP students are required to reside on campus for the entire program.

Transportation: Reasonable transportation costs to and from Columbia University, up to $500, will be covered if necessary.

Stipend: All students will receive a stipend of $5,000 to help cover living expenses. For students who participate in programs such as McNair, MARC, or Mellon Mays and who receive summer support, the SRP stipend payment will be adjusted to reflect this support.

Meals: No meal plan is provided, but all weekly meetings, seminars, workshops, and special events are catered.
Columbia Application Process and Requirements

The Leadership Alliance application deadline is February 1, 2013; the Alliance application is available at http://www.theleadershipalliance.org/Default.aspx. Students may also apply to the Columbia program with a Columbia application, which is due February 22. We will review all applications from either source, but will give preference to those applicants who complete both applications. Applicants who are also submitting 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) Curriculum Vitae

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 in the humanities and social sciences. Applicants must:

• Be entering Junior or Senior year in fall 2013
• Be U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• Have a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) or higher
• Show potential for doctoral study in proposed field; transcript should demonstrate course work in proposed area of research.
• Belong to a group historically underrepresented in academia and have therefore overcome challenges or hardships related to race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic background, family history of post-baccalaureate opportunity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

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 its significance
   • Methodology you used
   • Findings and their significance
c) Discuss proposed area of research according to the guidelines listed below. Indicate prior experience with the research topic(s), if relevant, or how it is connected with your overall research interests.
d) Describe your future education and/or career goals and explain how participation in SRP is relevant to these goals.
e) If you have applied to Columbia through the Leadership Alliance, the Columbia application offers you a chance to elaborate on the reasons that you chose Columbia University as one of your three preferred research sites.

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. Program administrators make the final determination of laboratory placement and use student preferences to help guide this decision.)

Humanities and Social Science students should try to identify the GSAS departments and subfields (see department list on page 4) that most closely match their research interests, and suggest one or more research topics.

In 2013, The Columbia GSAS Summer Research Program will focus on the research areas shown in the attached list. Students are also advised to contact Dr. Barbara Nesmith (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.
2013 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 faculty directly, and should address questions regarding research placements or program details to Barbara Nesmith (bsn2107@columbia.edu).

**Humanities**
- English and Comparative Literature (http://english.columbia.edu)
- 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://polisci.columbia.edu)
- 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 Biomedical Sciences programs and 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://pathology.columbia.edu/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/)
Additional Columbia University Summer Research Programs for Undergraduates

**Biology:** Department of Biological Sciences, three summer programs (*SURF, AMGEN, and NYSTEM*)
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/surf/

**Biomedical fields:** Summer Program for Under-represented Students (SPURS)
http://www.spurs.columbia.edu/index.html

**Physics:** Nevis Summer Research Program for Undergraduates
http://www.nevis.columbia.edu/reu/

**Interdisciplinary science and engineering, energy:** Research Experience for Undergraduates in Energy Frontier Research
http://www.cise.columbia.edu/efrc/category/education-and-outreach/

**Interdisciplinary science and engineering, materials:** Materials Interdisciplinary Research Team (MIRT)
http://www.cise.columbia.edu/nsec/outreach/rpu/

**Public Health:** Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP)

**Biostatistics:** Biostatistics Enrichment Summer Training Diversity Program (BEST)
http://www.mailman.columbia.edu/academic-departments/biostatistics/best-diversity-program