Tufts Institute for Innovation Summer Scholars

TII Summer Scholars Program
Summer 2015

Tufts Institute for Innovation
Tufts Institute for Innovation (TII) was officially launched in August 2014. TII is an initiative that facilitates research innovations by generating new knowledge and developing practical and scalable models for translation. Global impact starts at TII through collaboration among Tufts unique constellation of schools.

Program Overview
TII Summer Scholars provides first-hand research experience, networking, and skill-building opportunities to undergraduate students by pairing them with faculty mentors to conduct lab research, social science research, or field research related to TII-funded projects during the summer. Students will have the opportunity to participate in weekly social and educational events with students in the Summer Scholars program within the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education. In its inaugural session, 3-4 TII Summer Scholars will be funded. Students may pursue their research projects on the Boston, Medford, or Grafton campus. Travel expenses may be reimbursed.

Eligibility
Any Tufts University undergraduate in his/her sophomore or junior year at the time of application, who holds a minimum GPA of 3.0, is eligible to apply.

Application process
TII Summer Scholars will be chosen, in part, by the connection of their research proposals to a current TII project. Click here to review a list of current projects. However, proposed research topics need not be strictly based on laboratory science, and in fact, students with social science interests are encouraged to apply. Students with an interest in applying to the program are required to independently seek out a faculty mentor. Click here to find out more about how to find a faculty mentor.

Application components
- A brief project abstract
- A series of short-answer questions
- A 750-word self-authored project proposal
- A letter of collaboration, co-authored with your proposed faculty mentor
- IRB requirements
- 1-2 page CV or resume
- Transcript
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member
- Commitment to program requirements
Candidate selection
Completed applications will be reviewed and awardees selected by a review committee to include:
  • Proposed faculty mentor(s)
  • Deputy Director
  • Founding Director
  • Executive Committee member

Program Timeline
Application opens: December 15, 2014
Submission deadline: March 2, 2015
Application review period: March 3-20, 2015
Awardees notified: March 23, 2015
Students conduct full-time work for a minimum of 10 weeks between May 13, 2015-September 1, 2015.

Amount of award
Each TII Summer Scholar will receive a $3,500 stipend to support living expenses and a $1,000 student research stipend to support research related expenses. Faculty mentors will receive a $1,000 stipend.

Commitment to program requirements
Students are expected to devote their full attention to their research, during the 10 weeks of the program, by not engaging in other employment or coursework. We ask applicants to complete and sign a commitment to program requirements as a component of the application.

Academic enrichment opportunities
We are fortunate to have a partnership with the Summer Scholars program within the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education that will provide TII Summer Scholars with unique extracurricular opportunities throughout the program. Weekly programming includes workshops, faculty colloquia, and a day-long conference at summer’s end where students will present their research results. Workshop topics may include, but are not limited to, time management strategies, research and writing strategies, funding searches, and public speaking. Through this partnership, TII Summer Scholars will have an opportunity to be part of a 40-50 student cohort, all pursuing 10 weeks of research over the summer. Students are encouraged to attend as many programming activities with Summer Scholars on the Medford campus as possible. However, TII Summer Scholars are required to present their research at the collaborative poster session at the end of the summer.

Contact information
For questions about TII Summer Scholars, please contact Jessica Ketchen, Special Projects Administrator, at jessica.ketchen@tufts.edu.