

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF)

Each summer the Yale SURF Program brings a group of qualified undergraduates to Yale for eight weeks. The experience is meant to familiarize students with the kind of work they can expect to do in graduate school, provide them with insight into the many steps involved in building a career based on Ph.D. level training, as well as foster a sense of confidence regarding their own abilities and potential. Students are immersed in an academic, professional setting involving a working relationship with a faculty mentor, a program of individual research, and participation in a series of program workshops and panel discussions.

The focus of the program is primarily on research and on the methods of professional research. Students in the natural sciences learn advanced laboratory methods and conduct research under the guidance of a faculty mentor with postdoctoral associates and senior graduate students serving as sources of technical support. Students in the humanities and social sciences work closely with faculty mentors and have at their disposal the considerable archival resources found in the Yale University libraries. Because of the largely independent nature of their work, these students have more flexibility in structuring their own research schedules. Emphasis is also placed on the presentation of research findings to colleagues. All students give a final presentation to their peers, submit a written paper and attend the Leadership Alliance Conference to present their research at the meeting.

Eligibility Requirements

The SURF Program is intended for students with a strong desire to pursue research careers at the Ph.D. level. The program is particularly interested in identifying and providing research experience to talented underrepresented minority students. Preference is given to students completing their sophomore or junior years. However, other students who express persuasive plans for research may be considered. Participation in the summer program is restricted to US citizens and permanent residents.

Yale Graduate School Environment

Yale has long thrived on diversity. Not only was Yale the first university in North America to award Ph.D. degrees (in 1861), it was the first university here to award a Ph.D. to an African American, Edward Alexander Bouchet, in the field of Physics in 1876. It is equally noteworthy that with the formal establishment of the Yale Graduate School in 1892, women were also admitted as candidates for the doctorate.

If you choose to come to Yale, you will join a community of scholars in programs of study that are recognized nationally and internationally as among the best in the world, attracting a diversity of individuals from throughout the U.S. and abroad. The Graduate School prepares students for careers in research, scholarship and teaching in the arts and sciences. The work of the Graduate School is organized in three divisions:

Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Biological and Physical Sciences. The divisions are comprised of seventy-three departments and programs, fifty-seven of which offer courses of study leading to the Ph.D. degree. There are currently twenty-three programs that terminate with the Master of Arts, Master of Science and Master of Philosophy degrees. The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is the only one of the fourteen schools comprising Yale University that awards these degrees.

Covered Expenses

Students are housed at no charge in the Yale Graduate School Dormitory, and meals are provided in the Yale Summer Program Dining Hall. Students also receive a stipend for participation in the SURF Program. Travel to and from the program will be covered and arranged through the SURF Program Office. Students will receive a stipend of \$3,000 upon successful participation in the program.

Program Duration

The program lasts for eight weeks from early June through late July.

How to Apply

There are two methods for applying to the summer program.

Application via an outside funding source is the preferred method. To provide a research experience for as many students as possible, applicants with full or partial funding from outside sources are given preference during the selection of the summer fellows. The Graduate School is a member of the Leadership Alliance and encourages qualified applicants to [apply](#) through this program.

Each year a small number of students are fully funded when they [apply](#) directly to the Yale's SURF program.

Application Deadline

February 1

Admissions Notification

April 1

Contact

Office for Diversity & Equal Opportunity

Yale Graduate School

SURF Program Director

320 York Street (HGS 2678)

PO Box 208236

New Haven, CT 06520-8236

Phone (203) 432-0763

Fax (203) 432-7765

[E-mail](#) [Website](#)