

Last Updated: February 13, 2026

This is a general Frequently Asked Questions document for the FLI-SLI STEM 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 is new this year for the application process?

- a. Instead of using Academic Works for the application, starting in spring 2026, we are using a Google Form application. Many questions have been removed from the Academic Works scholarship application. Read the application carefully and answer all the questions thoroughly and honestly.
- b. Also, in the past, a Project and Mentor Catalog was posted, and we required you to review that as part of your application. This year, only students who advance through a first round of review will be choosing projects for the Project and Mentor Catalog. This catalog will not be on the website for public review. **This is a new process for summer 2026.**
- c. There will be **two main rounds of review** for the application process. Please review the webpage for an overview.

2. What can I do to increase my chances of getting an internship?

- a. **Since summer 2025**, we are only 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 at least 18 years old 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 2026 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 complete all the questions completely and honestly.
- c. There's no other "formula" or advice to give about upping your chances of getting an internship. We wish you luck!

3. Can I use AI for my essays?

- 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

4. 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.**
- 5. I'm not taking classes at Foothill the quarter before the internship happens, am I eligible?**
- 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 during the internship.
- 6. Am I eligible if I am an international student on a student visa?**
- 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).
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 7. I am an undocumented student, can I apply?**
- 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!
- 8. I'm transferring to a four year university in the fall, can I participate in the summer internship before I transfer?**
- 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.**
- 9. I will be abroad or living far from Foothill during the internship, can I still participate?**
- No, you need to be living in California, close enough to Foothill College so you can come to campus for some in-person activities in the summer 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.

10. 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.

11. 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**12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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**15. Do I need to sign up for the ITRN (Internship) class through Foothill?**

- a. This is not a requirement for the internship. However, if you are an international student, this is a requirement as part of your CPT.

16. 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.