

2026 Summer Science Internship

Deadline: Monday, March 9, 2026

The Summer Science Internship Program provides outstanding students with the opportunity to work in leading research and clinical laboratories under the supervision of world-renowned physicians and scientists at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

Goal: Through this internship, students receive hands-on experience in the fields of rheumatology and immunology, with a focus on arthritis and related autoimmune diseases. Interns participate in either basic laboratory (bench) research or clinical translational/epidemiological (patient outcomes-oriented) research or bioinformatics (computational) research. This program is designed to encourage motivated students to pursue a career in scientific study and research with the ultimate goal of inspiring them to focus their research potential on arthritis and related autoimmune diseases. Many graduates of the Summer Science Internship Program have gone on to pursue successful careers in the fields of medicine and/or scientific research.

Date: The internship is an 8-week program and will run between **June 1 to Aug. 28, 2026**. Interns are expected to work approximately 40 hours per week for 8 weeks under the supervision of principal investigators at UCSF and affiliated institutions. *Start date and vacation time during internship period should be discussed with your assigned principal investigator, keeping in mind that applicants are expected to complete a total of 8 weeks of internship.*

Internships: Sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation each summer, the 2026 internships are located at UCSF and local affiliated institutions. This internship offers experience in basic laboratory (bench) research, clinical epidemiological/translational (patient oriented) or bioinformatics (computational) research. While every effort will be made to accommodate applicant preferences, all internship assignments are final. This internship is open to high school juniors, seniors and college undergraduates.

All applicants must be at least 17 years of age by June 1, 2026.

Poster & Final Paper: A poster session will be hosted at UCSF. The poster will reflect the work the intern accomplished over the eight (8)-week internship.

At the conclusion of the internship, each participant will submit a brief (2-page) paper to the Arthritis Foundation, summarizing their experience, by **Sept. 14, 2026**. Interns will not receive the second half of their stipend until their final paper has been received by the Arthritis Foundation.

Stipends: Stipends will be paid in two installments, half at the beginning of the internship and half after the completion of the eight (8)-week internship, upon receipt of the final paper by the Arthritis Foundation. Interns will receive: \$2,500 total.

Application: You must complete the application online at https://ucsf.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_6nj0f43RxUMFBz0

Letters of Reference: Please submit with your application two (2) letters of reference from faculty or teaching assistants from your current or previous schools, supervisors, or other community members. Reference letters submitted by email must be on official letterhead and sent by email to summerscience@arthritis.org as a PDF or scanned. **Hard copies are not accepted. Letters of reference must be received by March 9, 2026.**

Transcript Requirements: HARD COPIES NOT ACCEPTED. Please send by email to: summerscience@arthritis.org. **Transcripts must be received by March 9, 2026.**

- High School Level: most recent transcript (**unofficial copies are acceptable**).
- Undergraduate Level: most recent transcript (**unofficial copies are acceptable**). First year undergraduates should include a high school transcript as well.

Age Restrictions: All applicants must have reached their **17th birthday by June 1, 2026**. There are absolutely no exceptions. Applicants who will be under 18 years of age on June 1, 2026 must also provide the written permission of a parent or guardian to participate in the program (see application form).

Housing & Transportation Information: No housing or transportation is provided. All interns are responsible for their own housing and transportation to their assigned research site. Please be prepared to make whatever housing and transportation arrangements are necessary to complete the internship.

Deadline: All applications and supporting materials must be received electronically by the Arthritis Foundation by **11:59 p.m. PT, March 9, 2026.**

Notifications: Selected applicants will be notified by email by **April 27, 2026**. Applicants who have not been selected will NOT receive a notification; please do not email arthritis foundation to inquire about your status.

Application Evaluation: The Northern California Office Medical and Scientific subcommittee of the Arthritis Foundation will review all applications.

The subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Mary Nakamura and Dr. Mehrdad Matloubian of UCSF Division of Rheumatology. The subcommittee includes up to four additional members who are also trained researchers at UCSF and are MDs and/or PhDs in the field.

All applications are read and competitively scored. The applications are also judged based on the student's mastery of scientific principles, their letters of recommendation and responses to the questions. The intern finalists are chosen based on the recommendations of the committee and assigned to a lab.

For more information, please email: summerscience@arthritis.org.