Tufts Institute for Innovation Summer Scholars

TII Summer Scholars – Program Overview
Summer 2016

Tufts Institute for Innovation
Tufts Institute for Innovation (TII) was officially launched in August 2014. TII is an initiative that will facilitate research innovations by generating new knowledge and developing practical and scalable models for translation. TII is committed to sponsoring multidisciplinary, collaborative, solution-focused human health-related research. 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. This year, up to 3-4 TII Summer Scholars may be funded.

Students may pursue their research projects on the Boston, Medford, or Grafton campus. Travel expenses must come out of the $1,000 research stipend.

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 Seed Funding project (see “Faculty Mentors & Current Projects” PDF). 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.

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:
• Deputy Director
• Founding Director
• Executive Committee members

Program Timeline
Application opens: December 9, 2015
Submission deadline: March 4, 2016
Application review period: March 4-25, 2016
Awardees notified: March 25, 2016
Students conduct full-time work for a minimum of 10 weeks between May 23, 2016-September 2, 2016.

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.

TII Summer Scholars are strongly encouraged to attend as many programming activities with the “traditional” Tufts Summer Scholars as possible. (These activities generally take place on the Medford campus). However, TII Summer Scholars are required to participate in the following:
• Library Instruction Session (June 2016)
• Summer Scholar Collaborative Poster Session (Fall 2016)
• TII Program Review Meeting (Fall 2016)
• Undergraduate Research Symposium (Spring 2017)

Contact information
For questions about TII Summer Scholars program, please contact Christina Fogarasi, Project Administrator, at Christina.Fogarasi@tufts.edu.