

November 20, 2007

*Physics Scholarships, Internships, and Research
Informational Meeting*

General Guidelines for Applying

1. Start now!
 - a. Breaks like Thanksgiving and Christmas are the perfect time to look for internships and scholarships. Keep in mind that most applications tend to be due in January or February, so start early so that you have plenty of time to ask for recommendations, get transcripts and work on essays.
 - b. Use search engines, physics organization websites, and the SPS scholarships/research link for more information on the available opportunities.

<http://uosocietyofphysicsstudents.googlepages.com/home>
 - c. Look for applications where you have the advantage, or where you might stand out.
 - d. IMPORTANT! It's best to ask for recommendations as early as possible, ie, before/during winter break, otherwise your professors might not have time.
2. Compile a list of scholarships/internships
 - a. When making a list, the most important things to keep track of are the deadlines, how many recommendations you need, how many transcripts you need, and the type of essay(s) required.
 - b. As a side note, be sure you meet all the requirements for eligibility before you start working on the application!
3. Compare applications in your list and plan your strategy
 - a. Look for similarities between different applications to save you time, ie:
 - i. Similar essay questions? Write one general essay that can easily be modified.
 - ii. Similar types of recommendations? Get several copies of one recommendation to use more than once.
 - b. When planning to complete these applications, think about who you will ask to recommend you. Be sure it's someone who knows you. Also, try not to ask the same professor for five different letters! (Although five copies of the same letter works great, and saves you time).
4. Begin applications
 - a. If the application is online, set up an account and keep track of your username and password on the same master list.
 - b. Fill in the general information (this is the easy part)
 - c. Fill in short answer, resume style information, ie: activities, awards, volunteer involvement
5. Spend some time writing a solid, general essay
 - a. Essays that address general topics like your career goals, your life ambitions, how you will benefit from a research experience, etc can be used over and over for many different applications. So write a good one, and then modify to fit specific requirements for each application.
 - b. Pay attention to word limits!

- c. Write sincerely. And be sure to leave time to edit it!
6. Take of recommendations and transcripts if you haven't done so already
 - a. Offer to meet with your recommender to discuss the application, or at the least, be sure to email them a copy of your resume so that they have something to reference when writing your recommendation
 - b. Be sure to thank them profusely! A card is always nice!
7. Complete application and review it carefully
8. Send it in on time!
 - a. This is very important! If you don't make the deadline, there's really no point in applying.
 - b. Check to see whether the application must be **postmarked** by a certain date, or **received** by that date. (Most of the time, a postmark date is fine).
9. Wait for response.
 - a. If you received a scholarship/internship/award, be sure to follow all the instructions on how to accept the award.
 - b. If you don't receive it, don't be too sad. There are a lot of students out there applying for the same scholarship. This is why it is so important to apply for as many as possible!

Scholarships

- Be sure to apply for local, statewide, and national scholarships. The local ones give you the best chances, since the pool of applicants is smaller. National ones often offer more support

Internships

- Internships can help you figure out what you're really interested in, can help you secure a job after school, and look great on resumes for grad school. Basically, they're great all-around!
- Think about where you might want to make a career and look for internships at the same or a similar organization

Research

- Like internships, research is vital in helping direct your career path and interests. Don't leave your undergrad studies without some!
- Vital for a successful grad school career.
- Get involved during the summer, and also during the school year. Think local! UO has lots of professors doing some truly amazing research right here on campus. Figure out what you might be interested in and go talk to those professors. Most are more than happy to employ a few undergrads in their labs! And yes, a lot of the research is paid.

Finally, be sure to check out the UO Society of Physics Students webpage:

<http://uosocietyofphysicsstudents.googlepages.com/home>

There's lots of information about great physics scholarships and research under the 'Scholarships, Internships, and REUs' link at the top.

See also the 'links' page on the UO Physics Dept webpage:

http://physics.uoregon.edu/physics/physics_links.html