

# YES Internship Program Application

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\* Required

## Application Questions

According to the information you provide in this form, we will pair applicants to start-ups that we believe will provide the best fit and value to them. Please answer the following questions with as much thought and detail as you can—many of our partners work as tight-knit, dynamic teams, so we want to make sure you will be the best possible fit for them. If your answers are too brief, we will not consider your application.

Our affiliates emphasize the value of independence and creativity in an employee—they want self-starters who go beyond just their assigned tasks and strive to help drive their company's growth and vision. Keep this in mind as you write your application!

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This application has 5 sections

- General Information
- Application Questions (this section)
- Preference and Commitments
- Invitation to Self-Identify
- Acknowledgement and Submission



What kind of role do you play on a team? What kind of environment helps you succeed? \*

On a team, I enjoy being the person that keeps everyone going - by providing support, encouragement, and my own contributions of work. I love to be the person where someone else can bounce their ideas back off of, providing honest feedback or assistance as needed, without judgment. While making my own contributions to the work, I understand that coming together as a team is necessary, and I enjoy being the glue that makes the team work smoothly together, for instance, this could be being the middle person for conflict resolution or initiating the team meetings to build more of the team's chemistry together. Overall, I want to be the source of support that everyone on the team needs so we are able to work as a well-functioning group.

The environment that helps me to succeed is one where I am comfortable with my peers, that is, where I've been able to develop a sense of trust with them. This starts with communicating an environment of honesty, defining that all conversations are to achieve that common goal. When this sense of communication is established, I believe this is where I can best thrive. Here, I am able to put forth any ideas I have, and if an idea is set in motion, the support provided by my peers will be a motivating factor that drives me forward. Enthusiasm about the project or the team also is beneficial, as this helps drive my own morale, but seeing everyone excited and ready to put their best foot forth encourages me to look in other ways to continually contribute.



Describe a time when you demonstrated your creativity and resourcefulness (need not be a work experience, it can be with anything). \*

When spearheading the creation of an alumni network of women engineers for a student organization, this is where I have demonstrated creativity and resourcefulness. Undergraduate students networking with alumni is very important. However, networking events virtually can be disengaging and sometimes awkward, but I brainstormed ways to have casual networking events that were engaging and not the standard Zoom calls. I thought of ways how I virtually spent time with my friends and how I did team bonding events with my co-workers at my internship and sought to combine this dynamic, virtually. In the end, I was able to brainstorm different game night networking activities that kept professionals and students engaged, and kept the atmosphere relaxing leading to more genuine and less nerve-wracking conversations.

When the corporate sponsor of an event I was hosting had to pull out due to another commitment, I was able to tap into the alumni network I had established to find another well-accomplished speaker, and I believe this is an example of sort of an established resourcefulness, as I was able to adapt for the situation by finding another replacement, but by creating this alumni network, I was essentially ready to go.



What problems are important to you? How have you solved or how do you see yourself solving them? \*

The problems that are important to me are the ones that in the end, have a positive yet direct impact on a community. I strive to improve some aspect of a person's life with projects I take on, which starts with identifying the issue - an area of need or improvement.

I am very passionate about the retention of female engineering majors. This was an issue I learned about as although there is a lot of K-12 STEM outreach to encourage girls in engineering, there were still improvements to be made in the area of keeping women in engineering. As a member of this community, I brainstormed ways to face this issue by using my personal experience, identifying areas where I personally could see resources or programs being provided for me. Once I used my own insight, I proceeded to ask peers for their input as well. I did this because I think collecting as many perspectives as possible helps with an approach to the problem, allowing for a more encompassing approach that can apply beyond my original ideas. I then implemented programs and events in the areas I saw could provide benefit to these young, women engineers. Although this is not a problem I have technically solved completely, I would like to think that I have put on some programs and events to provide some women in engineering with the support and resources to succeed in this field.

Obviously, with every problem, I may not have a personal connection to the problem, but overall, I see myself trying to empathetic by attempting to understand the problem from all perspectives. Even without a personal connection, I can still try to find ways to relate what I learn to previous experiences. This way, I believe I am able to have the best picture and thus a better approach to the problem.



List your academic interests aside from your major. \*

Public health, especially regarding how to reinvent our current healthcare system using 'upstream' or 'midstream' interventions. I hope to find ways to contribute to this movement despite not having a Public Health background.

Overall, I am very interested in medical technology and health tech space.

Architecture, both as an art form and regarding building sustainable cities.

Marketing in the digital age, I am fascinated by how marketing tactics evolve amongst social media.

List your technical skills (marketing, programming, creating financial models, developing business skills, etc.) \*

Programming (Comfortable in many languages such as C, Java, MATLAB, Python)

Data Science (Creating models, deep learning, Kaggle competitions, I have 2 research experiences here)

Signal Processing

Embedded Systems Development

Marketing (From summer internship intern competition at Apple, design competition experience)

Design (From summer internship intern competition at Apple, design competition experience)

Event planning (Student organization)

Video Editing (Premiere Pro)

Corporate Liaison/ Networking (Responsible for generating revenue for a student org through corporate partnerships with over 15 companies)



LinkedIn Profile Link (strongly encouraged)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sophiahxu/>

Resume Upload \*



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### Optional Questions

Answer any number of the following optional questions to give us even more insight into who you are.

Write a short intro for yourself in the third-person. If you are paired with a start-up, we'll send your response to this question as an introduction! Try to keep it within 3 to 5 sentences.

Sophia is a third-year Electrical and Computer Engineering major at the University of Texas at Austin. She is passionate about working with others to create innovative products for social good, as she thrives on creating technology to impact lives. As a passionate



Which start-up is your top choice? Why would you be a good fit?

Bluespace.ai

I would be a good fit because I am someone that is able to be both an independent developer and a member of the team. With previous experiences, I was tasked with projects where I had little prior experience, but even then, I found resources for myself to learn and develop proficiency in the topic. I am absolutely eager to learn, as I highly value the concept of experiential learning. Overall, I am very interested in self-driving technology and I am eager to potentially contribute to this technology and its future. As someone who grew up in a very urban city with means of mass transportation but has ventured to cities with greater mass transportation infrastructure, I really appreciate these means of mass transportation and would love to see that to be implemented in more places. I'm used to a fast-paced environment, and in fact, I thrive off needing weekly deliverables and project changes, as I am adaptable and innovative.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

After graduation, while I'm still exploring my exact domain, I see myself at a company that works on products for social good, whether this be a company I join or a company I help start-up.

As for until I graduate, I see myself utilizing the different resources available at my University to further my knowledge and build connections so that in the far future, I can possibly start a company and build a product where I am passionate about, based on what I have learned and experienced.



Have a portfolio/Github/website you'd like to share?

<https://github.com/xusophia>

Anything else you would like us to know?

I'm someone who's passionate about doing social good, which is what led me to engineering, as I was fascinated by the ability to create solutions from scratch to better the world.

I'm someone who's very passionate about bettering myself, and I am not afraid of independence or leadership, but I also truly thrive off of working with others. For my first summer research experience, I learned Python and the fundamentals of machine learning on my own, first drawing from some of the knowledge I had learned in other classes to finding resources online. On the spot, during the research experience, I was able to further my knowledge independently on concepts like deep learning and convolutional neural networks to be able to contribute to my graduate student mentor. Despite little programming experience, I taught myself how to program and solve coding interview questions over the summer to obtain a software engineering internship at Apple the subsequent Fall, where as an intern, I served as the primary developer on a project. This meant that I was creating code, and thus every week I would release code for other engineers at the company to use, and making code changes accordingly. Despite this being my first internship, this was an experience I thrived in as I was able to take a lead on this role.

I've had the privilege of being mentored by many great people in my career so far, and I truly value the knowledge that each have brought to me. I wouldn't be the person I am today, I wouldn't have had the opportunities and experiences if it weren't for these wonderful mentors.

Anything else you would like us to see (meme, personal project, etc.)?



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