

LS-NSSA/MnDRIVE 2025 Summer Research Internship Scholar Application

Thank you for your interest in our 2025 summer research internship program. The program is a partnership between the Minnesota Discovery and Research Innovation Economy (MnDRIVE) initiative and the Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance, providing a **paid, 10-week** summer research experience to undergraduates.

The internship will officially run from June 2, 2025 - August 9, 2025. A mandatory half-day kick-off meeting and luncheon for all MnDRIVE interns and faculty will be on May 30, 2025. We have summer internship opportunities in three general research areas: 1) Global Food Ventures 2) Environment and 3) Brain Conditions.

Selected students will gain first-hand experience in scientific investigation in a dynamic, collaborative research environment. Students will be matched with MnDRIVE faculty, who will provide training and support. In addition to research, participants will engage in weekly workshops, create a research poster, and present their findings at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on August 7, 2025. Participants will receive a stipend for their research and participation throughout the summer.

*New this year: We are allowing applicants to select if they want a part- or full-time appointment. The part-time appointment requires 20 hours of work per week and the full-time appointment requires 40 hours of work per week for 10 weeks. **The stipend amount will depend on the appointment type.**

- Part-time: \$3,000 stipend
- Full-time: \$6,000 stipend

More information about the program and important dates can be found on our website: <https://northstarstem.org/events/mndrive-summer-internship>

Please read the following thoroughly before beginning to complete the online application.

NOTE: The deadline for applications is March 7, 2025 @ 5:00 PM (CST).

2025 Program Timeline:

February 3, 2025: Application opens for LS-NSSA scholars

March 7, 2025: Application closes for LS-NSSA scholars

March 24, 2025 - Match process begins - faculty will receive student materials and may reach out to those they think would be a good fit for their projects/laboratories to establish an appropriate match

April 14, 2025: Match process closes and intern - mentor matches finalized

May 30, 2025: Internship kick-off/luncheon (interns and mentors expected to participate and attend)

June 2, 2025 - August 9, 2025: Internship period (10-weeks)

August 7, 2025 (tentative): Research Symposium jointly hosted by UMN REU Programs (interns and mentors expected to participate and attend)

Recommended Qualifications:

- Have a GPA above 2.75
- Be fully committed to the research experience
- Completed some STEM coursework
- Excited and ready to learn!

Eligibility Requirements:

- Level 1 Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar (check with your site coordinator regarding what Level scholar you are if you do not know)
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - Not graduating in May or August 2025
- *A student in their Junior/3rd year has between 60-89 credits and a Senior/4th year has 90 or more credits. For example, a current sophomore, who will be a junior in the fall, is eligible to apply.

Application materials:

- 1) Completed online application
- 2) Written materials

- Short Answer Responses (uploaded with this application)
- Personal Statement (uploaded with this application)

- 3) Unofficial transcript (uploaded with this application)

- Please name the file in the following format: Transcript_LastName_FirstName

- 4) At least one Letter of Recommendation (emailed *by the recommender* to nssa@umn.edu by March 10, 2025 @ 11:59 PM (CST))

Applicants who submit a complete application by 11:59 (CST) on March 7, 2025 will be given preference to participate in this research program and with their top project choices. A letter of reference should be emailed by the writer of the letter to nssa@umn.edu. All letters of references must be submitted to LS-NSSA by Monday, March 10, 2025 @ 11:59 PM (CST) .

Important notes:

If you are not a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance Level-1 Scholar, or have not applied to become one, please go to this website and complete the scholar's application for your undergraduate institution *before* applying for the summer internship opportunity: <https://northstarstem.org/applications-forms>

If you are uncertain about your status as a scholar, please go to this website and reach-out to the LSAMP coordinator for your undergraduate institution *before* applying for the summer internship opportunity: <https://northstarstem.org/about-us/alliance-partners>.

Guidelines for submitting written materials:

Short Answer Questions

Please answer the following questions in **150 words or less per question**:

1. We understand that students have a variety of commitments and engage in various activities outside of the classroom. Please discuss your typical involvement in extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, work, and/or community service.
2. What are your expectations of your MnDRIVE faculty mentor, lab mates, and the MnDRIVE/LS-NSSA research community during the 10 weeks of the MnDRIVE Summer Research Internship? How do you expect to contribute to the lab, team, and LS-NSSA community?

Note: Please name the file in the following format: ShortAnswer_LastName_FirstName

Personal Statement

In **500 words or less**, submit a personal statement that addresses the following:

- Why you wish to participate in this research program and what you hope to gain through the experience – including any information you feel supports your request to participate (i.e., research experiences, coursework, employment, internships).
- How to reach your career goals through graduate education or future employment.
- Indicates the faculty mentor you are interested in working with and why.

Note: Please name the file in the following format: PS_LastName_FirstName

Any questions, please email LS-NSSA (nssa@umn.edu).

To view the application in full prior to completing the online application, [click here](#) to download.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Please indicate your citizenship status. (You must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident to be eligible for this summer research opportunity).

Mark only one oval.

- I am a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident
- I am neither a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident
- I do not wish to answer this question.

3. Are you are a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar? (You must be a LS-NSSA scholar to be eligible for this summer research opportunity).

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I am a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar.
- No, but I have applied to become a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar.
- No, I am not a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar.
- I am uncertain if I am a Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance scholar.

Applicant Information

Please complete the applicant information section completely and to the best of your ability.

4. First name *

5. Last name *

6. Pronouns

Check all that apply.

- She/Her/Hers
- He/Him/His
- They/Them/Theirs
- Other: _____

7. Gender *

Mark only one oval.

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer.

8. Permanent mailing address (include street address, city, state, and zip code) *

9. Current mailing address (if different from permanent address)

10. Phone number *

11. Institution email address *

12. Personal email address

13. College or University you attend during the regular school year *

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Mark only one oval.

- Augsburg University
- Bemidji State University
- Carleton College
- Century College
- Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
- Leech Lake Tribal College
- Metropolitan State University
- Minneapolis College
- St. Cloud State University
- St. Olaf College
- University of Minnesota - Duluth
- University of Minnesota - Morris
- University of Minnesota - Rochester
- Red Lake Nation College
- White Earth Tribal and Community College
- North Hennepin Community College
- Saint Paul College

14. If you chose Other in the previous question, please list your institution below.

15. Please check the ethnic group(s) with which you most identify: *

Check all that apply.

- African American
- Alaska Native/Aleut
- Asian American
- Mexican American
- Native American
- Caucasian
- Chicano
- Puerto Rican
- Other

16. If you chose Other, please list the ethnicity/ethnicities that you identify with the most below.

17. Are you a first generation college student? (First-generation means that you are the first in your family to attend college).

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

18. All in-person projects take place at the U of M - Twin Cities. If chosen for an in-person or hybrid project, will you need on campus housing? (LS-NSSA provides housing for all scholar who need lodging for the summer, especially those who do not live in the Twin Cities area).

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Academic Information

Please complete the academic information section completely and to the best of your ability.

19. Are you an enrolled undergraduate student? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

20. Current academic status as of the end of Spring 2025. *

Mark only one oval.

First year/freshman (0-29 credits)

Second year/sophomore (30-59 credits)

Third year/junior (60-89 credits)

Fourth year/senior (90 or more credits)

21. Anticipated number of credits completed by the end of Spring 2025. *

22. Major *

23. Minors or certifications, if any.

24. Current overall GPA *

25. Current major GPA *

26. Have you applied, or do you intend to apply, for graduation in May or August 2025? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

27. Expected graduation date *

Research Experience

Please complete this research experience section to the best of your ability. Research experience is NOT required for the LS-NSSA/MnDRIVE research internship.

28. Have you had any previous research experience? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

29. If yes, please briefly describe your previous research experience(s). If no, please skip this question.

30. Do you plan to apply to a graduate/advanced degree program? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Maybe or not sure

31. Which of the following graduate/advanced degrees are you interested in? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- MS/MA
 PhD
 MD
 Other
 Not sure

32. Do you have other grants or fellowships for Summer 2025 research? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

33. Express your area(s) of research interest. (check all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- Global Food Ventures
 Environment
 Brain Conditions

MnDRIVE Research Area Focus and Preferences

Go to this document: [MnDRIVE 2025 Projects](#)

Review the available internship projects for this summer. Notice that the projects are listed by research area. You can choose projects from different research areas.

After reviewing the projects, please list your top 3 projects below based on their PROJECT ID and Faculty Name. The Project ID is located at the top of each project (ex: BC-1, E-3).

You are not guaranteed your top choice.

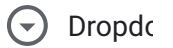
34. Project Choice #1 (choose the correct Project ID) *

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Mark only one oval.

- BC-1 Christine Conelea
- BC-2 Oscar Miranda Dominguez
- BC-3 Kathryn Cullen
- BC-4 Robert McGovern
- BC-5 Jacqueline Palmer
- BC-6 Luke Johnson
- BC-7 Edgar Pena
- BC-8 Tay Netoff
- BC-9 Sandipan Pati
- E-1 Romas Kazlauskas
- E-2 Mikael Elias
- E-3 Bo Hu
- E-4 William Arnold
- GF-1 Gillian Tarr

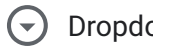
35. Project Choice #2 (choose the correct Project ID) *



Mark only one oval.

- BC-1 Christine Conelea
- BC-2 Oscar Miranda Dominguez
- BC-3 Kathryn Cullen
- BC-4 Robert McGovern
- BC-5 Jacqueline Palmer
- BC-6 Luke Johnson
- BC-7 Edgar Pena
- BC-8 Tay Netoff
- BC-9 Sandipan Pati
- E-1 Romas Kazlauskas
- E-2 Mikael Elias
- E-3 Bo Hu
- E-4 William Arnold
- GF-1 Gillian Tarr

36. Project Choice #3 (choose the correct Project ID) *



Mark only one oval.

- BC-1 Christine Conelea
- BC-2 Oscar Miranda Dominguez
- BC-3 Kathryn Cullen
- BC-4 Robert McGovern
- BC-5 Jacqueline Palmer
- BC-6 Luke Johnson
- BC-7 Edgar Pena
- BC-8 Tay Netoff
- BC-9 Sandipan Pati
- E-1 Romas Kazlauskas
- E-2 Mikael Elias
- E-3 Bo Hu
- E-4 William Arnold
- GF-1 Gillian Tarr

Application uploads

Please upload your short answer responses, personal statement, and unofficial transcript(s) below.

Short Answer Questions

Please answer the following questions in **150 words or less per question**:

1. We understand that students have a variety of commitments and engage in various activities outside of the classroom. Please discuss your typical involvement in extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, work, and/or community service.

2. What are your expectations of your MnDRIVE faculty mentor, lab mates, and the MnDRIVE/LS-NSSA research community during the 10 weeks of the MnDRIVE Summer Research Internship? How do you expect to contribute to the lab, team, and LS-NSSA community?

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- How to reach your career goals through graduate education or future employment.
- Indicates the faculty mentor you are interested in working with and why.

37. Upload your short answer responses. *

Please name the file in the following format: ShortAnswer_LastName_FirstName

Files submitted:

38. Upload your personal statement *

Please name the file in the following format: PS_LastName_FirstName

Files submitted:

39. Upload your most recent unofficial transcript(s). Please name the file in the following format:
Transcript_LastName_FirstName

Files submitted:

40. Click agree if you understand that your letter of recommendation must be emailed from the recommender to LS-NSSA (nssa@umn.edu) by 11:59 PM (CST) on March 10, 2025.

Mark only one oval.

Agree

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