



Data Science Institute Summer Lab	
Application Deadline:	January 16, 2024 at 11:59pm CT.
Program Dates:	8 weeks: June 10 - August 5, 2024
Stipend:	\$4,800
Apply Online:	https://forms.gle/nFGonhmyKsfz5VNR8
Contact:	If you have questions about the program or would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact mrlong@uchicago.edu .

Join us for a virtual information session on Wednesday, December 13th from 5-6pm CT to learn more about the program, explore data science at UChicago, and engage with Summer Lab alumni. Please register for the information session [here](#).

The Data Science Institute Summer Lab program is an immersive 8-week paid summer research program at the University of Chicago. In the program, undergraduate students (and Chicago-area high school students) are paired with a data science mentor in various domains, including: computer science, data science, social science, climate and energy policy, public policy, materials science, and biomedical research. Through this pairing the research assistant will engage with and hone their skills in research methodologies, practices, and teamwork. We encourage participation from a broad range of students, and require no prior research experience to apply.

Program Structure and Benefits:

- **Research:** Students in the program are immersed in a research lab and given unparalleled, first-hand access to impactful, applied data science research. Students will gain not only an understanding of fundamental data science methodologies but specialized training within the application areas specific to their lab's research thrust. Students are asked to practice communicating their research findings throughout the summer, culminating in a final symposium. Students also engage in professional development and training that can help them prepare for future careers in data science and computing. Additionally, many alumni continue research work with their mentor after the program ends.
- **Cohort:** In the program, students are welcomed into a cohort of their peers who represent diverse backgrounds, interests, and ambitions. Through near-peer mentoring, social gatherings, and group work on projects, students in this cohort not only become



better trained data and computational scientists, but better equipped to tackle any challenges ahead through their experience with group work and collaboration.

- **Programming:** An exciting array of programming is provided for students during the summer. A highlight of the summer programming is a weekly speaker series featuring researchers at the forefront of data science. Speakers address topics ranging from their own unique and unconventional paths to data science research to their innovative approaches to tackling important, impactful research questions. Students have the chance not only to hear from first-class speakers but also to introduce and be in conversation with them. Programming also includes social events like baseball games, trivia, picnics, concerts, mini golf, and more.

Program Eligibility:

- **Grade/year:** High school applicants must be located in the Chicago area. Undergraduate applicants must be enrolled in college in fall 2024 (graduating college seniors are not eligible). Current high school seniors who will be starting college in fall 2024 will be categorized as high school applicants and therefore must be located in the Chicago area. Graduate students are not eligible.
- **International students:** International students are eligible to apply so long as they are able to provide documentation to support their work authorization in the United States. If you have specific questions about your eligibility, contact your international student office.
- **Housing:** We provide optional housing for college students as part of this program. We are not able to provide housing to minors, and high school students of any age (including current high school seniors) are responsible for arranging their own housing and transportation.
- **Programming familiarity:** Applicants should have some familiarity with at least one programming language.

Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Summer Lab Review Committee using the following factors:

- **Intellectual Curiosity:** Evident interest about data science and the applied domain areas chosen.
- **Skills Baseline:** Familiarity with at least one programming language, and translation of self-evaluated skills ratings in CV/relevant coursework/other experiences.
- **Program Fit:** Clear why this program is valuable to the student. Evident interest in being part of a cohort group and doing research in a community.
- **Potential for Growth:** Evidence that the program will have an outsized impact on applicant's growth (e.g., limited previous research experience/access, future career path in data science or related field).
- **Teamwork:** Demonstrated ability to work successfully as part of a team.



- **Research Aptitude:** Creativity and curiosity, self-direction and initiative, goal-oriented and adaptable work ethic, resilient problem solving, time management and communication skills.

Applications Should Include:

- Resume
- Research keywords and description of interest (150 words max)
- Technical skills self-evaluation
- Personal statement (400 words max)
 - Please speak to your interest in data science, mathematics, and/or computer science; any previous related experiences (school-related or otherwise) that you have enjoyed; any obstacles you have faced along the way; and your experience collaborating with and supporting your peers.
- Internship goals (300 words max)
 - Why do you want to participate in this program? What role will it play in your personal and academic growth? Which program goals particularly resonate with you?
- Project description (300 words max)
 - Describe a project you've undertaken. It can be a final project from a class, a side project, or one from a previous research program. In detail, describe: (1) the goals of the project and your approach; (2) one challenge you faced and how you addressed it; (3) one achievement from the project of which you're particularly proud. With this question, more value will be placed on how you approached the project, rather than how advanced or technical it is.
- Link to an artifact (optional)
 - Please provide a link to something that shows off your prior work. For example, a project report, GitHub account, personal website, blog post, LinkedIn profile, or a paper.
- Letter of recommendation (optional)
 - The letter can come from a teacher, coach, mentor, employer, etc. and should speak to your enthusiasm about learning, research, and/or community. Letters can be submitted here: <https://forms.gle/R4vCnCHbSripULTf9>.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement:

We seek a diverse pool of applicants who wish to join an academic community that places the highest value on rigorous inquiry and encourages diverse perspectives, experiences, groups of individuals, and ideas to inform and stimulate intellectual challenge, engagement, and exchange. The University's Statements on Diversity are at <https://provost.uchicago.edu/statements-diversity>.



The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Disabled/Veterans Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law. For additional information please see the University's [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Applicants in need of a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should call 773-834-3988 or email equalopportunity@uchicago.edu with their request.

Contact:

For questions about this application, please contact Molly Long (mrlong@uchicago.edu).