



NATIONAL ASTRONOMY & IONOSPHERE CENTER/ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

2011 REU Summer Assistantship Program

NAIC will be conducting a summer assistantship program for undergraduates at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, funded by the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. Areas of research include radio and radar astronomy and atmospheric science. Students interested in electronic instrumentation or computer science are also encouraged to apply. The assistantships, which include a stipend, on-site lodging and round trip airline tickets to Puerto Rico, are conducted during a flexible ten-week period beginning in late May. Students will have opportunities to visit many of the beautiful sites of the island, which is a U.S. Commonwealth. Seven REU-supported students will be selected. There are normally five additional students from the University of Puerto Rico on site each summer as well.

ELIGIBILITY: Undergraduates, who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who will be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program (part- or full-time) during Fall 2011, are eligible. In addition, NAIC anticipates supporting one or two positions for first- or second-year graduate students who are enrolled in U.S. institutions (non-U.S. citizens may apply).

We generally look for students who are majoring in astronomy or physics, with good math and computing background. Grades are important but so are the student's enthusiasm, initiative, and future goals. If you are able to become involved in any research projects at school, please do so – this could be a beneficial part of your application.

The most useful computer languages/packages are: Mathematica, Fortran, C, C++, IDL, and Matlab, plus specialized astronomical or atmospheric sciences data analysis packages. It all depends on the projects. Usually, if the student has some experience with computer languages, he/she can learn whatever is necessary for a new language.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: Please complete the attached application and return it to the address below, along with your resume, letter of interest, official transcripts and 3 reference letters from academic staff from current or past schools. Obtaining transcripts can take some time, so please submit your request early. It's not necessary for you to send all the materials at once – transcripts and reference letters can be sent separately as they become available. Reference letters may be sent by fax or email directly from the recommender.

Send applications and supporting materials to: Jill Tarbell
NAIC, 504 Space Sciences Bldg
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-6801
jtm14@cornell.edu Fax: 607-255-8803

DEADLINE: Your application form and letter of interest have to arrive at the address below by **February 1** in order to be considered. Applications will be accepted by email, although original transcripts are required by mail.

First offers will be made on March 1 via email. Alternates will be held until all positions are filled.

Questions? Call Jill Tarbell at 607-255-3735 or email jtm14@cornell.edu

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Tel: 607-255-3735 / Fax: 607-255-8803 / jtm14@cornell.edu

http://www.naic.edu/science/summer_set.htm

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

1. Name: _____ U.S. Citizen ____ Perm. Resident ____
Last First MI or Other: _____

2. Campus Address: _____ Email: _____
_____ Phone: _____

3. Permanent Home Address: _____
_____ Phone: _____

4. **Official Transcripts:** Please list universities attended and provide original official transcripts from each. Also provide a list of courses currently enrolled in.

Current academic level (check one): Undergraduate Yr 1 __ Yr 2 __ Yr 3 __ Yr 4 __ Yr 5 __ Graduate Yr 1 __ Yr 2 __

University	Major(s)	Dates Attended	Degree and Date Received or Expected

5. Dates available for program: _____

6. **Academic References:** Please ask 3 individuals (listing them below) to provide a letter evaluating your ability, experience and potential. They may send their letters by fax, mail or email.

Name & Title	Institution	Phone & Email Address

7. Areas of Interest (**number in order of preference**):

___ Radio Astronomy ___ Solar System Radar ___ Atmospheric Sciences ___ Computing ___ Electronics

8. Programming Experience (although not necessary for some assignments):

Machine/Language	Months of Experience	Brief Description of Project

9. Scientific or Related Employment (including assistantships since graduating from high school):

Dates of Employment	Employer's Name & Address	Job Title	Brief Description of Major Duties

10. Publications and Honors: _____

11. **Letter of Interest:** An important part of this application is a letter describing your educational background and goals, and your scientific interests and experience. Please include any information relevant to the evaluation of your potential for success as a research assistant in the NAIC REU Summer Assistantship Program.

12. How did you learn about our program? _____

13. *I hereby authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application, and I release from all liability or responsibility all persons, corporations, or other organizations furnishing supplemental information to that provided above. If accepted into this program, I agree to abide by all rules and regulations that are in effect or may be established in the future, and I understand that I might be required to sign a patent agreement.*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

*In accordance with the **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974**, you may waive your right to inspect the letters provided by your References listed above by checking the box below. Should you decide not to waive your right, you will have access to the letters if you are chosen as a participant in the NAIC REU Summer Assistantship Program.*

"I hereby waive my right to access of my reference letters."