



## NATIONAL ASTRONOMY & IONOSPHERE CENTER/ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

# 2012 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 several additional students from local universities 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 2012 are eligible

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: IDL, and Matlab, C, C++, plus specialized astronomical or atmospheric sciences data analysis packages, but there are no specific requirements for the program. 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:** **Carmen Torres, REU Program**  
HC 3 Box 53995  
Arecibo Observatory  
Arecibo PR 00612 USA  
[carmen@naic.edu](mailto:carmen@naic.edu) Fax: 787-879-4415

**DEADLINE:** Your application form and letter of interest must arrive at the address above by **February 1 2012** in order to be considered. Applications will be accepted by email, although original transcripts are required by mail. First-class mail from the mainland US can take up to 5 business days to reach the observatory. Packages sent by courier services such as UPS and FedEx can be sent to: Carmen Torres, REU program, Arecibo Observatory, End of road 625, Arecibo PR 00612, but please note that courier service to Puerto Rico can be quite expensive.

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

**Questions? Call Carmen Torres at 787-878-2612 ext 303 or email [Carmen@naic.edu](mailto:Carmen@naic.edu)**

# 2012 REU SUMMER ASSISTANTSHIPS

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY & IONOSPHERE CENTER / ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

Arecibo Observatory, HC 3 Box 53995, Arecibo PR 00612 USA

Tel: 607-255-3735 / Fax: 787-879-4415 / Carmen@naic.edu

[http://www.naic.edu/science/summer\\_set.htm](http://www.naic.edu/science/summer_set.htm)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

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 \_\_

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. Your decision whether or not to waive this right will **not** affect the evaluation of your application.*

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