

# Aspirnaut™ Summer Research Internship Program

## HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION

Sunday, May 31 through Saturday, July 10, 2015 (6 weeks)

Application Deadline: **February 1, 2015**

### Program Description

The Aspirnaut Program Summer Research Internship is a hands-on and mentored laboratory experience for high school students interested in a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Participants reside for six weeks on the campus of Vanderbilt University and conduct biomedical research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center under the direction of Billy Hudson, Ph.D., Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Matrix Biology. Vanderbilt is an internationally recognized center of excellence in scientific research and is home to one of the best-rated hospitals and medical centers in the country. Program participants are exposed not only to the inner workings of high-level scientific research, but also to the culture of one of the country's premiere institutions. Located in the heart of Nashville, known affectionately as Music City USA, participants will be exposed to a broad spectrum of excellence, both academically and culturally.

The goal of this program is to provide high school students a laboratory experience in which they can play an active role in ongoing biomedical research. Students are fully engaged in their research project — conducting experiments, collecting data, analyzing results, and keeping their lab notebook and research portfolio. Students meet regularly to discuss their projects with scientific mentors. They engage with guest speakers. At the end of the program, students prepare written reports and give oral and poster presentations to their peers and mentors. Activities and assignments will vary within a standard nine-to-five timeframe in laboratory atmospheres, with evenings and weekends available to the participants to complete homework assignments. There is plenty of free time to explore the university, Nashville, and area during supervised trips.

Participants will reside in the student residences on campus, which will include kitchen facilities. Male and female participants will be housed either on separate floors, with males on one floor and females on another, or separate buildings. There will be a female and male resident advisor for the entire six weeks. Students will be chaperoned 24 hours a day by the resident advisor, lab personnel, or a program mentor, giving appropriate supervision to the safety and group dynamics of minor participants. Responsible supervision of participants will extend into supervision of electronic activities, including the appropriate use of cell phones, laptops, and social media while participating in the internship experience. Participants will be provided with ID badges that are loaded with funds to be used for meals on and off campus (at specially designated restaurants). Salary may not be immediately available, so participants should arrive with enough spending money for at least two weeks.

### Eligibility

Students considered for this program will be those who have achieved excellent grades and test scores in math and science and who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering or mathematics). Students must be at least 15 years of age at the start of the program and have proof of current health insurance.

### Dates / Costs of Program / Stipend

Accepted applicants will be provided with full room and board on the Vanderbilt University campus at no charge. In addition, each participant shall receive a salary of \$1,700 for the six-week session, which shall be prorated depending on the actual length of participation. The internship has a value of approximately \$7,000 per student for the 6-week program.

### Application and Selection

Applications should be accompanied by an official copy of the student's transcripts and test scores (standardized tests, ACT, etc.), along with 2 letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a teacher. The second letter could be from school administrators, employers, volunteer work coordinators or other mentors who can meaningfully address the student's creativity, motivation, and problem-solving capabilities.

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1. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide a valid email address)

**Eligibility Status**

2. I am attending a High School in FALL 2015

Yes

No

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**Personal Information**

3. First Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

5. Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

8. Gender:

Male

Female

9. Place of Birth (City/State/Country): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Mailing Address Street/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

11. Mailing Address City \_\_\_\_\_

12. Mailing Address State \_\_\_\_\_

13. Mailing Address Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

14. Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

15. Student Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

16. Alternative Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

17. Tribal Name and Membership Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Academic Information**

18. High School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

19. High School Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

20. High School City \_\_\_\_\_

21. High School State \_\_\_\_\_

22. High School Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

23. Year in school as of Fall 2015

- Ninth Grade
- Tenth Grade
- Eleventh Grade
- Twelfth Grade

24. Current Grade Point Average (unweighted) \_\_\_\_\_

25. Weighted GPA (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

26. Latest ACT or SAT Score \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have not taken the ACT/SAT yet that is okay and you may leave the field blank)

27. How many times have you taken the ACT/SAT

28. To which colleges/universities would you like to apply (or have been accepted to) \_\_\_\_\_

29. Career Aspiration \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. Physician, Research Scientist, Engineer).

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## Demographic Information

**Please Note: Responding to these demographic questions is voluntary. No adverse action will result whether you answer these or not. This information will be used when the Aspirnaut™ Program is applying for grants and other funding sources.**

30. What is your race/ethnicity
- White
  - Hispanic
  - Black or African American
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Pacific Islander
  - Other
31. Do you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- Yes
  - No
32. Do you have Internet Access at your residence?
- Yes
  - No
33. What is the highest level of education your mother has completed?
- Less than High School
  - High School or GED
  - 2 Year Degree – Associates Degree
  - 4 Year Degree – Bachelor Degree (BS, BA)
  - Master's Degree
  - Doctoral Degree
  - Professional Degree (MD, JD)
  - Don't know
34. What is the highest level of education your father has completed?
- Less than High School
  - High School or GED
  - 2 Year Degree – Associates Degree
  - 4 Year Degree – Bachelor Degree (BS, BA)
  - Master's Degree
  - Doctoral Degree
  - Professional Degree (MD, JD)
  - Don't know

35. What is your total household income per year?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- More than \$100,000

36. How many people reside in your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

37. Are you eligible for free or reduced-fee lunches?

- Yes
- No

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**Emergency Contact Information**

38. Parent or Legal Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_
39. Emergency Contact Relationship \_\_\_\_\_
40. Parent or Legal Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_
41. Parent or Legal Guardian Alternative  
Phone Number (work or cell) \_\_\_\_\_
42. Parent or Legal Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

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## Short Response Questions

43. Please provide concise responses to the questions below.

1. Describe your qualifications for participation in this program. Please include any examples of coursework that fostered your interest in research.
2. Why do you want to attend this program? What about basic science research interests and challenges you?
3. Describe your extracurricular interests, activities, and hobbies.
4. Describe your education and career goals and reasons for pursuing them.

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## Finalizing Application

44. Please list any dates you are unavailable during the program and the reason for this.

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45. I am including an official copy of my standardized test scores (such as ACTAAP, TCAP, NECAP) and grades for the past two years (REQUIRED) including grades for Fall Semester 2014.

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46. I have mailed two sealed letters of Recommendation to the following Address:  
**Aspirnaut Research Internships Vanderbilt University**  
**1161 21st Avenue**  
**South CCC-3300**  
**Medical Center North Nashville, TN 37232-2104**  
Or have had my references email them to:  
[researchinternships@aspirnaut.org](mailto:researchinternships@aspirnaut.org)  
on official school letterhead and from an official school email address.

- Yes  
 No

47. By typing your name here you are certifying that the information you have entered on this application form is complete and accurate.

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48. If applicant is under the age of 18 a parent or legal guardian is required to type their name in this box confirming they give consent for the student to submit the application and that the information entered is complete and accurate.

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