

# 2025 Bradley University BEST Research Internship Program

**Applications received by April 1, 2025 will receive priority consideration.**

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the BEST (Building Excellent Scientists for Tomorrow) Research Internship Program is to provide a foundation in scientific research appropriate for high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in basic or applied sciences, including biology, biomedical sciences, environmental sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. Opportunities for undergraduates include the added benefit of developing leadership skills and advancing scientific knowledge. All interns will have the opportunity to present their research at the Interns Symposium at the conclusion of the program.

This program will:

- Provide a mentored research experience that is challenging and stimulating;
- Broaden the Intern's technical skills, interactions with individuals from the scientific community, and educational and professional experience;
- Offer supporting information for the intern's career development; and
- Provide awareness of the employment opportunities in the field of science here in Peoria.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Interns will complete a 150 to 300-hour internship during the program period June 3 – July 28, 2025\*(dates may vary slightly, as negotiated with program directors). Interns will work directly with a BEST mentor. BEST mentors that have participated in past years include researchers from Bradley University, the USDA Agricultural Utilization Lab, University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, Caterpillar, ILM Consulting LLC, and Methodist College.

\*Start and end date will be adjusted if necessary, based on the actual last day/ first day of classes for local high schools.

## FEE

The cost for the 2025 BEST program is \$1675. This fee includes all of the programmatic activities that the intern will participate in, including but not limited to: workshops, discussions, seminars, local field trips to field sites and medical institutions, and the Interns Symposium. **A refundable \$100 deposit is required for the application to be considered.** Checks should be made payable to: Bradley University Center for STEM Education. Applicants who are not accepted into the BEST program will receive a full refund.

Undergraduate students may opt to receive university credit in mentored (BIO 280) or supervised research (BIO 385) for additional cost (~\$950 per credit hour). For more information, contact Dean Campbell at [campbell@bradley.edu](mailto:campbell@bradley.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

One or two \$500 scholarships will be made available to BEST research interns based primarily on financial need. Please complete and return the scholarship application, available on the Center for STEM Education website under K-12 students.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants for the BEST Research Internship Program must:

- Complete the attached BEST Research Internship Program Application and a one-page personal statement
- Provide two letters of recommendation from teachers or other professionals who are acquainted with the students work habits, leadership skills, ability to work with others or potential for research success • Provide a copy of high school or college transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable for application but certified transcripts will be required to start the program).

**Screening of applications will commence April 1, 2025.**

Factors used in the selection process will include GPA, letters of recommendation, research experience, computer knowledge, and personal statements. All applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students selected to participate in the program will be invited to interview with mentors before their placement; however, final mentor-student assignments will be made by the program director. Changes to these placements will only be made for truly extenuating circumstances. **Students will be expected to participate in this program full time. (i.e. 35-40 hours per week between the hours of 8 to 5 Monday-Friday)**

**Applications received by April 1 will receive priority consideration.**

**Mail applications and the refundable \$100 deposit, payable to Bradley University Continuing Education to the following address:**

2025 BEST Program  
Center for STEM Education  
Bradley University  
1501 W. Bradley Ave.  
Peoria, IL 61625

For any further questions, contact Dean Campbell; [campbell@bradley.edu](mailto:campbell@bradley.edu).

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**II. APPLICANT STATUS (circle one)**    High School    Undergraduate**III. OPTIONAL**

*Completion of this section is voluntary. This information is valuable to the program and funding agency so please consider completing this section.*

GENDER \_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_ Male

**ETHNICITY AND RACIAL BACKGROUND****ETHNIC GROUP**

**Hispanic and/or Latino:** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**RACE** (Choose more than one, if applicable):

\_\_\_\_ **American Indian or Alaska Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

\_\_\_\_ **Asian:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam.

\_\_\_\_ **Black of African American:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

\_\_\_\_ **Native Hawaiian of Other Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

\_\_\_\_ **White:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, Middle East, or N. Africa.

**DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

Do you have any disabilities or special needs? (Handicap access, diet restrictions, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

1 of 2

**V. HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION**

HIGH SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF DIPLOMA OR EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: I am currently a: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior.

CUMULATIVE GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Will you be 15 by June 2 2025? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. COLLEGE EDUCATION (if applicable)**

INSTITUTION CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NO. OR CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_ CUMULATIVE GPA \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. WORK EXPERIENCE (if applicable)**

CURRENT JOB TITLE AND EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STARTING AND ENDING DATES \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ADDITIONAL CURRENT OR PREVIOUS JOBS ON A SEPARATE PAPER.

**VIII. LABORATORY SKILLS (if applicable)**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

**IX. AWARDS, HONORS**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

**X. PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Attach an additional sheet with your response to the following question or type your response on this page (ONE PAGE MAXIMUM) **HOW DO YOU FEEL A RESEARCH EXPERIENCE WILL BENEFIT YOU? What do you believe has prepared you for this experience? What do you expect to be able to do or know by the end of this experience that you do not know now?**