Introduction to INSPIRE

The NSERC-CREATE to INSPIRE (Interdisciplinary Network for the Synchrotron: Promoting Innovation Research, and Enrichment) is a new synchrotron training program hosted at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). INSPIRE connects closely with the Canadian Light Source (CLS) to train and mentor highly skilled graduates for a variety of careers. While INSPIRE focuses mostly on graduate student training, it provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students.

ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS who are working as summer employees at the CLS, or who are engaged in a synchrotron-relevant project with a faculty member, are invited to join this experience.

The purpose of this summer program is to enhance your summer work experience and grow your network of other students and experts associated with the synchrotron through networking and training events. As a summer student, you are part a community of students to be invited to participate in the INSPIRE-CLS summer undergraduate program.

Supervisors may also apply for funding from the INSPIRE NSERC-CREATE Grant.

Application Instructions

- All students should complete registration form (USask Survey Monkey Form)
    - https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/VVLG2WQ
    - An approved but non-funded trainee will still assume the title “INSPIRE Undergraduate Student” and will receive all other benefits of the program.
    - **Zero funding option**: Candidates who have full funding elsewhere or are employed directly by the Canadian Light Source are welcome to apply to become an INSPIRE Student.

What to expect as an INSPIRE-CLS Summer Student:

- **Bi-Weekly events:** 8 noon hour sessions from May to mid-August, Day TBD
- **Session 1:** Welcome event, with introduction on the goals and information on the program
- **Sessions 2-7: Training, networking, or mentorship circles on alternating weeks:**
    - **Participation in a Mentorship circles:** Meet with a small group of other undergraduates, along with a graduate student, faculty, and CLS staff from outside of your area. Make new connections, share your experiences and find new allies to discuss your future goals
    - **Networking with other students**
    - **Training sessions**
- **Session 8: Poster presentation** to share your summer experience with the group, with best poster awards
- **CLS seminars** as scheduled
- All events to be held by videoconference (In-preson opportunities will be evaluated based on university pandemic guidance_

Participation in SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience):
https://vpresearch.usask.ca/students/undergraduate/sure/sure-student-undergraduate-research-experience.php

Funding option for the INSPIRE Summer Undergraduate Program

INSPIRE will provide a top-up to a number of approved UG students that will not exceed $2,000. UG students working with INSPIRE faculty are expected to receive a minimum of 25% of their summer stipend from the operating grants of INSPIRE faculty member supervisors. Supervisors are expected to adhere to university guidelines for summer student hourly wages.

- **Summer stipend support is contingent on availability of grant funds.**
- **Provide operating funds:** Operating costs of a student's research must be provided by the supervisors.

Funding Request from Supervisors

Supervisors may elect students to apply for funding.

Eligibility of trainees. Applicants for funding will be drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including environmental, agricultural, life and health sciences, engineering or physical sciences. All applicants should have an interest in cross-disciplinary learning and interactions and use the synchrotron for their research projects.

Eligibility of projects. All projects should have strong relevance to synchrotron-based research. Examples of research projects include: i) application of one of more synchrotron techniques in any discipline; or ii) development of accelerator, beamline optics, detectors, methodologies or related technologies or approaches. Research may involve synchrotron or related facilities in addition to the CLS, unless supported by funds from the CLS. All project descriptions must demonstrate their strong connection to synchrotron sciences. For stipend support, **new collaborations and directions are especially encouraged.**

Eligibility of supervisors. For funding from INSPIRE, each trainee must have a supervisor who is an eligible faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina or a scientific staff member at the Canadian Light Source scientific

Instructions to apply for Funding

- Complete INSPIRE UG Funding Request form
- Supervisor CV. Requirement is waived for grant co-applicants.
    - Other prospective supervisors may submit a 2-page CV or NSERC CCV
- Official transcripts of the trainee's complete academic record to date.

Please save the above-mentioned documents as pdfs and submit the completed application package by **e-mail** inspire@usask.ca by the deadline.

Review: Applications for funding will be judged on:

- Excellence and fit of the trainee (transcripts, CV, statement of intent)
- Excellence and fit of the supervisors (CV, commitment to contribution)
- Quality of the proposed research (form summary)
- Alignment of proposed research with synchrotron sciences

Candidate selection for funding will consider the diversity of research areas and disciplines encompassed by INSPIRE. The selection committee will also strive to reduce barriers to equity, diversity and inclusivity as a goal of enriching the program and recognizing the diversity of backgrounds and experience that candidates and their supervisors may bring.

For more information regarding the program or application send e-mail to inspire@usask.ca