

## Application Instructions

### For Students:

#### Eligibility:

- Students must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or U.S. permanent residents.
- Students must be enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree program (part-time or full-time) leading to a baccalaureate or associate degree *during the semester following the REU program*. High school graduates, transfer students, and students enrolled at community colleges are eligible to apply.
- *International students and graduating seniors are not eligible for this program.*

This program is designed for students who want to gain research experience in marine science. Students do not need to have prior experience conducting research to participate in the program.

### Application Information

Applications are due February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It is your responsibility to see that your materials, including letters of recommendation, are received on time.

**This year we are participating in a research study about REU programs.** As part of your application, you will be asked whether or not you are willing to participate in the study. Details on the study are on the next page, so you can read and understand them before you begin the application process.

### A complete application consists of:

- 1.) **A completed online application**
- 2.) **Unofficial transcript (uploaded to the application form)**
- 3.) **Two recommendation letters from professors**

The online application consists of a series of questions about you, your background, and your interests. As a part of the application, you will need to:

- *Select three faculty mentors you are interested in working with.* Please visit <http://reu.utmsi.utexas.edu/possible-projects/> for a list of faculty and their interests. Have your three choices of names ready before beginning the application.
- *Provide short answers (300 words each) to the following questions.* You can write these in another program and cut and paste them into the online application form.
  - Describe any specific laboratory or field experience, or skills you have, from school, work or other activities.
  - What do you hope to do after you graduate, and what are your eventual career plans?
  - Why do you wish to participate in marine science research?
  - Describe your personal strengths and characteristics that will help you succeed in research.
  - Is there anything else that you would like our selection committee to know about you that hasn't already been covered?
- *Submit your unofficial transcript.* Please have a copy of your transcript (in pdf, doc or docx format) ready to upload before you begin the application.

### Reference letters

Please ask two professors who can give an honest assessment of your interest in scientific research to provide reference letters. You should give them a copy of Page 2 of this document for instructions on preparing and submitting their letters.

If you have any questions about the application process, please email Dr. Deana Erdner at [UTMSI.REU@gmail.com](mailto:UTMSI.REU@gmail.com)

## **REU Pilot Study**

You are invited to participate in a research study to describe the population of students interested in participating in undergraduate research experiences funded by the National Science Foundation. The collection of this data is important. Understanding how many students and what types of students are interested in participating in undergraduate research experiences has the potential to influence the design and scale of both efforts to recruit students and the programs that offer the opportunities themselves.

### **Who is conducting this research?**

This is a research project being conducted by Mr. Michael Hubenthal, Senior Education Specialist at the IRIS Consortium & Adjunct Faculty at Binghamton University's Graduate School of Education. Mr. Hubenthal is unaffiliated with the internship site that you are applying to, and is not involved with the acceptance or rejection of applications to the program.

### **What am I being asked to do?**

By participating in the study, the following elements of your internship application will be shared with the primary investigator listed above. Your data will be combined with other applicants for analysis. None of this information will be used to contact you.

- Last 4 digits of your phone number
- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Academic standing/year
- Prior research experience
- Home zip code
- School zip code
- Academic institution attended
- Academic major and minor
- GPA

### **What should I know about participation?**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not have any effect on the review of your application by the program you are applying to. Nor will it prejudice your future relations you may have with the IRIS Consortium and Binghamton University. If you decide to participate now, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time.

### **What are the benefits?**

You will not receive any direct benefits from participating in this research study. However, you may indirectly benefit, if/when the findings of this investigation influence the scale and design of undergraduate research opportunities in the future.

### **What are the risks?**

There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this study other than those encountered in day-to-day life.

### **Will my information be kept private?**

The data being collected is not easily identifiable; care will be taken to secure this information. Data will be stored on password-protected computers that are secured in locked offices. While the results of the research study may be published or presented at conferences no individually identifying information will ever be included.

### **Reference Letter Instructions**

#### **For Recommenders:**

Thank you for providing a letter of reference for a student applicant to the REUisME program at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. We appreciate your time and efforts in the application process.

**The deadline for receipt of references is February 13, 2017.**

For this reference, we ask that you:

- 1.) Write a reference letter assessing the applicant.
- 2.) Upload the letter online and complete a short form.

#### **Reference Letter**

Please provide your candid and detailed assessment of the application's qualifications, academic abilities, and potential. In your letter, specifically address 1) activities or accomplishments that demonstrate the candidate's strengths and weaknesses, and 2) their interest in marine sciences and/or other STEM fields as a career. We do not require that students have prior research experience to participate in this program, but we would like to know how gaining research experience would positively benefit the student's career goals.

#### **Online Form**

Please visit <http://reu.utmsi.utexas.edu/applications/> and click on the "Recommendation Form" link at the bottom of the page.

This form asks you to identify yourself and the student applicant, and contains a short table for you to rank the student's abilities in several areas (e.g. written & oral communication, analytical ability, creativity, maturity, etc.) relative to other students you have taught or mentored. This form should take 5 minutes to complete.

You may upload your reference letter (pdf, doc or docx formats only) at the end of this form.

Any questions should be directed to Dr. Deana Erdner, Program Director, at [UTMSI.REU@gmail.com](mailto:UTMSI.REU@gmail.com)

Thank you again for your time and efforts! We sincerely appreciate your recommendation.