

## 2010 Summer Research Internship Program FAQs

### **My GPA is below a 3.5. Should I apply?**

If your GPA is lower than 3.5, whether or not you should apply depends on whether you feel your strengths in other areas will outweigh a lower GPA. In 2009, we had 238 applicants for 12 positions. GPA was the first screen: The list was sorted by GPA and the bottom 50% of applicants were eliminated from consideration. This left us with about 120 applicants who had GPAs of 3.6 and above. The applicant pool will vary from year to year though, so there is no mandatory minimum GPA.

### **For the essays, I'm having trouble fitting my information in within the character limits. What should I do?**

Keep in mind that your audience is the busy healthcare professionals on the selection committee. Efficient communication of the most relevant information is an important career skill. Good grammar and full sentences should be used for the essays and motivation statement. In other categories, you can summarize more briefly.

### **Do you provide housing for interns?**

We do not offer housing support as a part of the program. Interns in the 2009 program were pleased with sublet opportunities they were able to arrange through CraigsList. The University of Minnesota campus is within two miles of Abbott Northwestern Hospital where the internships will be located. Commuting by public bus or bicycle are possible.

### **If I am an international student, can I still apply for this program?**

All interns must complete a Form I-9 and provide documentation of their eligibility for employment on their first day of work. To review the form and what documents you will need to provide, visit [www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf).

### **Do I need to have a Social Security number (SSN) in order to apply?**

For the application itself, if you do not currently have a Social Security number, you may just pick any four digits that you will be able to remember. The only purpose of this ID is to match part I of your application with part II, so just be consistent.

### **Do I need to have an SSN to work as an MHIF intern?**

The Internal Revenue Service requires employers to report wages using an SSN. If you do not have one at the time you accept an internship position, you will need to apply for one. More information about international students and SSNs can be found on this page: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10181.html>.

### **What if I have applied for an SSN, but it doesn't come in time?**

If an intern has applied for but has not yet received an SSN, we will ask for documentation that an SSN application has been submitted, as well as the following information: full name, address, date of birth, place of birth, father's full name, mother's full maiden name and gender. We will need to see your SSN card when it arrives.

### **I am a recent graduate in a related field and/or a current med school student. Can I still apply?**

The primary audience for this internship program is pre-med students or students in a related health care field who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program. However, we have had both recent graduates and med school students participate in prior years, and they reported having had a fantastic experience.