UCSC Science Internship Program (SIP) (2026 reference)

University of California, Santa Cruz

https://summer.hanlin.com/en/programs/ucsc-science-internship-program

Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz

Destination: United States

Subjects: Natural Sciences / Computing & Engineering / Mathematics / Humanities & Social Sciences / Arts & Design

Programme type: Research & selective

Format and duration: Online / campus or hybrid / 8 weeks: one online preparation week and seven in person

Age and stage: 14-17 throughout; some projects require 16+

Edition and status: 2026 / Past edition · new details pending

Sources checked: 2026-11-17

Overview

SIP places high-school students in UCSC research teams for open-ended work across sciences, engineering, humanities, social sciences and art. Most time is spent with the research group rather than in a common classroom schedule.

Learning and approach

Online preparation leads into research-group tasks and a final presentation.

Topics and research areas

The 2026 catalogue includes AI-supported discovery and discussion of research papers, ethics of AI applications, and investigation of autonomy and commons in urban activism. These are past examples; applicants express subject interests rather than reserve a repeat project. [1]

Mentors and teaching team

UCSC research mentors agree meeting times, tasks and work locations with interns. Students must communicate proactively, monitor email and meet deadlines; this differs from a fixed daily lecture programme. [2]

Academic support and research resources

Support comes primarily from the assigned laboratory or research group, supplemented by workshops and the final presentation. SIP does not award school or university credit; campus housing is a separate option. [2]

Eligibility and international applicants

In 2026 applicants must remain 14-17, with some projects requiring 16+. International applicants must meet the programme's listed status and entry conditions. Fluent English is required, but TOEFL is not.

Dates

2026 reference: online preparation 15-18 June, in-person research 22 June-7 August, presentation 8 August. Applications closed 27 February at noon Pacific; references were due 6 March. 2027 dates are pending.

Costs

The 2026 application fee is $68, with waivers available. Tuition, housing and transport are separate; need-based partial and full scholarships are available. The complete fee-table figures have not been verified here; $68 is not the programme price.

Application materials

Earlier applications requested research-area preferences and short responses, a personal statement, unofficial transcript and one teacher or mentor reference. Selection considers motivation, analytical thinking and fit; programming may matter for computational work. [3]

Hanlin editorial guidance: fit and preparation

Compare subject areas, mentor requirements and the independence needed to organise each day; distinguish computational, experimental and source-based projects.

Official sources

Official source 1 [4]

Official source 2 [3]

Official source 3 [2]

Official source 4 [1]

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Computing & Engineering summer programmes [9]

Mathematics summer programmes [10]

Humanities & Social Sciences summer programmes [11]

Arts & Design summer programmes [12]

All summer programmes [13]

Application documents guide [14]

Match programmes to your profile [15]

Sources and reading links

[1] https://sip.ucsc.edu/2026-research-projects/

[2] https://sip.ucsc.edu/frequently-asked-questions-for-sip-applicants-and-parents/

[3] https://sip.ucsc.edu/applying-to-sip/

[4] https://sip.ucsc.edu/

[5] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/programs/ucsc-science-internship-program

[6] https://summer.hanlin.com/programs/ucsc-science-internship-program

[7] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/destinations/us

[8] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/subjects/science

[9] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/subjects/engineering

[10] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/subjects/math

[11] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/subjects/humanities

[12] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/subjects/arts

[13] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/programs

[14] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/guides/application-documents

[15] https://summer.hanlin.com/en/match

This document is a snapshot. Check the relevant official edition for fees, eligibility and courses. Programmes are operated independently by their providers.

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