



Frequently Asked Questions

Materials Microscopy Student Research Summer Fellowship

Carl Zeiss Microscopy - Summer 2024





Do I need to own or already be using a ZEISS microscope to be eligible?

Nope! This program is open to any student who needs access to microscopes for materials research, regardless of prior experience or usage.

Do I need to have prior microscopy experience?

Prior experience operating microscopes or working with microscopy data is beneficial, but not required. However, we suggest that the individual's past experience/expertise should be aligned with the scope of the proposed work to ensure realistic expectations for what can be accomplished in the allotted time.

Can I participate if I am an undergraduate student? Or a Post-Doc?

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students are welcome to participate. Unfortunately, the program is not open to post-docs or other early-career positions.

What research topics are within scope?

The program is for students in the physical sciences, which may include but is not limited to: engineering, materials science, chemistry, physics, geology, or a related field. Biological science disciplines are out of scope for this program. If unsure whether your research field applies, please contact the program manager Will Harris at: william.harris@zeiss.com

If selected, how much time would I have available in the ZEISS lab to work on my project?

This will be a little flexible depending on the scope of the project and instruments required but expect to spend around 25% of your time (1.5 to 2 weeks-worth) on your proposed research project.

What will I be working on when not doing my own research project?

The ZEISS Innovation Center California is a new, vibrant, and high-tech home to multiple ZEISS business units, including several groups in the microscopy business. During their time on-site, the student(s) will work closely with ZEISS staff on an exciting ZEISS-assigned project related to the development, testing, or application of materials microscopy technology. ZEISS staff will make their best effort to align this project to the interests of the individual such that the knowledge and experience generated as a result are transferable to the student's own research and professional development.

What types of microscopes are available in the ZEISS facility?

Please see the separate document, "Available Microscope Technology". Individuals submitting proposals are also required to have attended one of the informational webinars to gain a deeper understanding of the available technology.

What will happen if I'm not able to collect all of the data I need during my summer at ZEISS?

ZEISS staff will make their best effort to help your time in the microscopy lab be as productive as possible. However, due to unforeseen scenarios involving personnel and instrument availability, it is impossible to guarantee all outcomes. In the event you don't have all the data you need when the program concludes, ZEISS will help explore paths forward and/or suggest possible additional collaborators who may be able to support you going forward.



Can I submit multiple proposals?

Each individual may submit only one proposal.

Can I have someone review my proposal before submitting?

You are welcome and encouraged to have colleagues or collaborators help with your proposal prior to submission. You may also reach out to ZEISS for consultation, if desired, and we will make our best effort to provide useful feedback, time-permitting (the sooner the better). If interested, please contact the program manager Will Harris at: william.harris@zeiss.com

How many winners will be selected for the Summer Fellowship?

At least one winning proposal will be selected. If numerous high-impact proposals exist, multiple winning proposals are possible.

Is the Summer Fellowship Program a paid internship?

Yes. The program is 40 hours/week, at a rate of \$25 – 30 / hr.

Do I need to submit a formal job application?

Finalists who are invited to re-submit and present their revised Round 2 proposals will also be asked to complete an online job application.

What expenses are associated with the program?

The program participant(s) is expected to be on-site in Dublin, CA during the summer program. ZEISS will cover the cost of airfare to/from California at the beginning and end of the program, but the individual is expected to arrange and cover the cost of their own accommodations and other expenses. The ZEISS Innovation Center California is walking distance to the Dublin/Pleasanton station of the BART regional train network, providing access to a range of housing locations/options as well as local attractions.

Who can I contact with questions?

Please contact the program manager Will Harris at: william.harris@zeiss.com