## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CSST Summer Program is a 10-week intensive research training and PhD recruitment program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).  Each program participant will be enrolled in 12 units of UCLA courses, conduct research under the guidance of a UCLA faculty mentor, and attend mandatory CSST activities including professional development and networking events. UCLA PhD programs will preview potential CSST applicants' research performance and begin early evaluation for the next year's graduate school admission cycle.

About 90% of CSST participants came from Biomedical & Life Sciences, Physical Science, and Engineering majors (STEM majors: **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering & **M**athematics). But we also welcome students from non-STEM majors such as Geology, Sociology, Political Science, Civil Engineering, Economics etc.

The specific goals of the CSST Summer Program are to:
- Develop students' research career potentials
- Foster cross-disciplinary interaction and research
- Develop a community of CSST colleagues
- Identify and recruit top students to UCLA PhD programs

## PROGRAM TIMELINE (tentative)

| Early June through Mid-September | Description |
|---|---|
| **Week 1: first week of July** | Program Start: Arrival and Move-In |
| **Week 1** | Orientation, Lab Safety Trainings, Dept. Check-Ins |
| **Week 2** | Peer Seminars: Project Plan Presentations |
| **Week 3 – Week 8** | CSST Seminars, Lectures, and other activities |
| **Week 9** | Peer Seminars: Project Result Presentations |
| **Week 10** | CSST Final Poster Presentations |
| **Week 10: second week of September** | Program Ends: Move-Out |

## STUDENT SELECTION

A limited number (~300) of applicants who meet the following criteria will be selected for the 2018 CSST interviews. Roughly 90 students will be admitted into the summer program.

- Strong interest in UCLA PhD career
- Outstanding academic achievement
- Previous research experience
- High English proficiency (TOEFL 79; IELTS 6.5)
- Interest in interdisciplinary studies
- Self-motivated and creative
- Mature, independent, and unique personality

**ONLINE APPLICATION**

We will announce the application link soon. Please check back on the CSST website (csst.ucla.edu) for application instructions in a few weeks. Below is an overview of what you would be asked to provide in the online application form. If you are interested to apply, we strongly encourage you to **prepare the application materials ahead of time**.

**REQUIRED INFORMATION**

- Basic introduction: name, contact information, etc.

- Your academic background
    - GPA, class ranking, etc.
        - You may use http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/GPA-Calculator/ to calculate your GPA (Use: Country → *United States*)
    - You will be asked to upload your **Official Transcript** in English (it takes time to obtain official transcripts, so please plan ahead)

- English tests that you have taken
    - *Important:* Although you are not required to provide these test scores during the application, if you are admitted into the program, you MUST provide a **TOEFL min. score of 79, or IELTS min. score of 6.5, by March 2019**. This is a mandatory requirement by UCLA Int'l Office for your F1 visa to participate in the program. No exception can be made
    - English proficiency will also be assessed during our in-person interviews

- Your research experience
    - You may describe up to 3 research experiences you have had

- Your Curriculum Vitae

- Two-part Essay
    - Part 1: Personal Statement (300-500 words)
      Please browse UCLA department webpages and PhD program information.
      Write an essay describing:
        - Your reason for applying to the CSST Summer Program. What do you hope to gain from this experience?
        - Your short & long-term career goals.
        - The UCLA PhD Programs that interest you.
    - Part 2: Summer Research Interest (100-200 words):
      Please browse UCLA research topics on UCLA department webpages.
      Write an essay describing:
        - General research topics that interest you
        - Areas you would like to focus on this summer
        - Please note: **DO NOT** name a specific faculty member in the essay, as this essay is forwarded to different professors for mentor matching if and when you are admitted into the program

**TIMELINE (tentative)**

– **Late October through November 2018**
Applicants submit CSST online application via CSST website (csst.ucla.edu). Link will be made available soon. There will be a **non-refundable** $80 application fee.

– **Early December 2018**
CSST announces 1st-round selection results and invites selected applicants for interview.

– **Late December 2018 through mid-January 2019**
UCLA faculty will travel to universities in China to conduct on-site interviews for selected applicants

– **February 2019**
CSST announces final roster of admitted program participants

– **March 2019**
Mentor "wish-lists" are due from admitted students

– **April through June 2019**
Mentor matches confirmed. Students begin conversations about their summer project assignments with their assigned mentors

– **First week of July 2019**
CSST 2019 Summer Program begins

**PROGRAM EXPENSE**

The underlined total program expense of $10,735 per student is shared by UCLA, the partner universities, and the students' personal fund.  Expenses for Summer 2019 will be **confirmed in May 2019**.

Each admitted student will receive a **CSST scholarship** covering the program fee, which includes tuition, administrative fee, etc.  Living, travel, insurance expenses, and other fees will be shared by the partner universities and the students: about **$5,392** in total.

| Description | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|
| 10-week CSST Program Fee *(Tuition, administrative fee, etc.,)* | **$5,343 (CSST scholarship)** |
| On-Campus Housing & Meals *(UCLA Housing Services)* | $3,372 *(under the 15 meals per week plan)* |
| Summer Session Reduced Registration Fee *(Regular fee is $790, charged by UCLA Summer Sessions)* | $150 |
| Document Fee *(UCLA Registrar's Office)* | $50 |
| iSTART Fee *(UCLA Dashew Center International Office)* | $59 |
| Visa Processing Fees *(UCLA Dashew Center for SEVIS, I-20, etc.)* | $325 |
| UCLA Summer Session Health Insurance | $375 |
| UCLA IEI fee | $61 |
| Airfare (Roundtrip) | estimated $1,000 |
| **TOTAL COST** | **$10,735** |

**HOUSING**

Housing plays an important role in developing a community of CSST colleagues and promoting cross-disciplinary interaction among students. Each student will be assigned a bed in a triple room in UCLA campus housing. All CSST students are required to live in their assigned housing. ***No exceptions.*** A meal plan of 11-meals or 15-meals per week is also included in the housing package.

**ENROLLMENT**

CSST will enroll each student in 4 units of independent study (course number 199 or 197) with their UCLA faculty mentor, as well as 8 units of CSST Colloquium (course: M Pharm 194) with Professor Ren Sun, CSST Executive Director. Course grades will be based upon research performance, CSST program attendance, and personal conduct.

**NOTES**

Students are strongly encouraged to take the GRE examinations before attending the Summer Program. Although GRE scores are not a requirement for participating in the Summer Program, it will be useful for evaluating the student's admissibility to UCLA PhD programs at the end of the Summer Program. Additionally, taking the exams early will allow students to retake it later if necessary.

## Questions?
**Please contact CSST at: csst@cnsi.ucla.edu**