SURF Gaithersburg "Fellow" Feedback

Introduction

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Hello! Every year we collect feedback from the students to see how the summer went, to learn what went right and what went wrong, and to gather suggestions on what we can do better next summer. Questions with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

Click "Next" to get started with the survey. If you'd like to leave the survey at any time, just click "Exit this survey". Your answers will be saved.

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(a)

Purpose: The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) hosts the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) which provides an opportunity for the NIST laboratories to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue careers in science and technology. This information collection will serve as the application and submission process for the SURF program.

Routine Uses: NIST will use the information collected to perform the requisite reviews of the applications to determine eligibility, and to meet programmatic requirements. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notices: NIST-1: NIST Associates.

Disclosure: Furnishing this information is voluntary. When you submit the form, you are indicating your voluntary consent for NIST to use of the information you submit for the purpose stated.

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NIST Lab

Please let us know which Lab you are in.

* 1. What Lab are you in?

- ◯ CTL
- ◯ EL
- ◯ ITL
- ◯ MML
- ◯ NCNR
- ◯ PML
- ◯ SCO
- ◯ TPO
- ◯ Other

2. Which NIST campus sponsored your appointment?

- ◯ Boulder, CO
- ◯ Gaithersburg, MD

3. Which format do you prefer for your research experience?

- ◯ In-person at the NIST campus
- ◯ Remote
- ◯ Hybrid (mixture of in-person and remote)

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Overall Program Questions

Please provide us with some information on the general program.

* 4. What will your class standing be as of this coming September?

- ◯ Sophmore
- ◯ Junior
- ◯ Senior
- ◯ 1st year graduate student
- ◯ Other (please specify)

* 5. How would you rate the program on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is “excellent” and 1 is “poor”?

- ◯ 1 (poor)
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 5 (excellent)

6. What did you like best about the program?

7. What did you like least about the program?

* 8. Do you plan to apply next year

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Maybe
- ◯ Not eligible to return, graduating
- ◯ No. Why Not?

* 9. Would you recommend the program to your classmates?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No. Why?

* 10. Do you plan to pursue a graduate degree in:

- ◯ Science or Technical Work
- ◯ Teaching
- ◯ Not sure
- ◯ No, or other non-science field. Why not, or which field?

* 11. Please tell us how strongly you agree to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My experience in the SURF program was valuable to my education and development.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The SURF program has influenced my career direction	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
The SURF Program influenced my decision to pursue a graduate degree?	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
I have decided NOT to pursue a career in research.	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

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Research Project

Now we'd like to know more about your research project

* 12. Please choose a statement that most closely reflects your agreement to the statement.

My project was:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Challenging.	○	○	○	○	○
Well-defined when I arrived or soon after.	○	○	○	○	○
A good match for my skill set.	○	○	○	○	○
Interesting.	○	○	○	○	○
Allowed me to learn things in areas I did not know before.	○	○	○	○	○
Important.	○	○	○	○	○
Structured so that I spent most of my time doing research.	○	○	○	○	○

13. What did you like best about your project?

14. What did you like least about your project?

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Advisor

We'd like to hear about your advisor.

* 15. Please rank the quality of your working relationship with your advisor on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is “excellent” and 1 is “poor.”

- ◯ 1 (poor)
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 5 (excellent)

* 16. My Advisor:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Provided me with a sufficient level of supervision	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Allowed me sufficient freedom in my research project	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Gave me a sufficient level of assistance in preparing my presentation	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Included me in group meetings and seminars	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

* 17. Did you request your research advisor’s assistance in your preparation for your final session presentation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

18. What advice would you give to your advisor to prepare him/her for his/her next SURF student?

19. What did you like best about your advisor?

20. What did you like least about your advisor?

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SURF Staff

21. Was the SURF staff accessible and available to address issues that you encounter during the summer?

- ◯ 5 (most accessible)
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 1 (least accessible)

22. Did the SURF staff communicate with you and provide you with information specific to your program?

- ◯ 5 (most communicative)
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 1 (least communicative)

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Social Interactions

Tell us what life was like outside of your project

* 23. The number of opportunities for interaction with SURFers in other labs (as an entire group) were

- ◯ Sufficient
- ◯ Insufficient
- ◯ Not an issue for me

24. Suggestions

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Administrative

25. Did you encounter any significant administrative problems (badging, computer issues etc.)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

26. Please comment on any significant administrative problems that might have occurred over the summer (e.g., problems with payment, badging/security, etc)

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Seminars and Lab Tours

Seminars and lab tours are an important component in the SURF program and an opportunity for you to learn more about research outside of your laboratory.

* 27. In general, the technical seminars in the Green Auditorium were useful or informative

- ◯ Strongly Agree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ No Opinion
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Strongly Disagree

* 28. How many of the seminars did you attend?

- ◯ 1-2
- ◯ 3-4
- ◯ 5-6
- ◯ 7-8

29. Suggestions for next year’s technical seminars (speakers)

30. Please provide suggestions for future professional development seminars.

31. Please provide suggestions for future lab tours at NIST.

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Congressional Affairs Tour

32. Did you attend the Congressional Affairs tour downtown?

- ◯ yes
- ◯ no

33. Please provide comments about the Capitol Hill Tour.

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Advertising the SURF Program

How did you hear about the SURF program? Are there better ways for us to advertise the program to new students?

* 34. How did you hear about the program (check all that apply)?

- [ ] My undergraduate advisor or other college professor
- [ ] Career Fair
- [ ] NIST Employee
- [ ] A family member
- [ ] Email sent by one of my school departments
- [ ] Saw a sign at school
- [ ] A friend passed on the information
- [ ] A friend or someone at my school participated in a previous SURF program
- [ ] I saw the SURF brochure
- [ ] Surfing the web, I found the SURF webpage
- [ ] Via NSF website
- [ ] I viewed the SURF video
- [ ] Saw one of the magazine advertisements
- [ ] Other (please specify)

35. How can we better advertise the program at your school?

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Applying to the SURF Program

* 36. Applying to the SURF program was straightforward

- [ ] Strongly Agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly Disagree

37. The general SURF webpage contained enough information to help me apply to the program

- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] No Opinion

38. Please give comments for improvements to the SURF website which could be helpful for applying to the program.

* 39. The NIST Lab SURF webpages contained enough information for me to appropriately rank them in my application

- [ ] Strongly Agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Neutral
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly Disagree
- [ ] I did not visit the Lab SURF webpages

* 40. How did the SURF program application deadline compare with other research programs/internships you applied to?

- ◯ SURF deadline was more than two weeks earlier
- ◯ SURF deadline was close (+/- 1 weeks) to that of other programs
- ◯ SURF deadline was within 2 weeks) to that of other programs
- ◯ SURF deadline was more than two weeks later
- ◯ Not applicable

* 41. The amount of information that I received before coming to NIST was:

- ◯ Too much
- ◯ Just right
- ◯ Not enough

42. If you answer "not enough", what other information would you have liked to receive?

* 43. How did the availability of the housing and transportation subsidy influence your decision to participate in the SURF program?

- ◯ It was critically important (first or second most important factor)
- ◯ It was important (one of the top five most important factors)
- ◯ It was of marginal importance or was unimportant

44. Suggestions

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Orientation

45. What problems, if any, did you have in getting to orientation on the first day?

* 46. In total, the first day's orientation program was:

- ◯ Too long
- ◯ Too short
- ◯ Just the right length

47. Please list any areas of improvement for orientation.

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Housing

Tell us about life at the Holiday Inn, Homewood Suites, or Zeus Living.

* 48. Did you live at Holiday Inn, Homewood Suites, or Zeus Living this summer?

- ◯ Holiday Inn
- ◯ Homewood Suites
- ◯ Zeus Living
- ◯ I received the housing subsidy and located lodging on my own.
- ◯ N/A

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Housing (cont.)

* 49. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is “excellent” and 1 is “poor” please rank

	1 (poor)	2	3	4	5 (excellent)
Housing accommodations	○	○	○	○	○
Helpfulness of the front desk staff	○	○	○	○	○
Quality of the NIST transportation service to/from Holiday Inn or Homewood Suites	○	○	○	○	○
Response to maintenance concerns	○	○	○	○	○

50. What did you like best about Holiday Inn?

51. What did you like least about Holiday Inn?

52. The NIST bus transportation schedule was

- ☐ too early (I would prefer to arrive and leave 30 min. later)
- ☐ just right
- ☐ too late (I would pefer to arrive and leave 30 min. earlier)
- ☐ I did not use the NIST bus

53. Not including orientation, how often did you use the bus from Holiday Inn or Homewood Suites?

- ○ Daily
- ○ Once or Twice a Week
- ○ Rarely
- ○ Never

54. If you answered "never" or "rarely" to the bus use, why not?

- ◯ Had my own car and liked the convenience
- ◯ Rode with a friend
- ◯ It didn't match with the time that I needed to be at work
- ◯ I rode a bike to work

Other (please specify)

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Returning Students

We want your wisdom...

* 55. Is this your first time in the program?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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Returning Students (cont)

56. Based on your experience from two (or more) summers, do you have any advice to give to the SURF Staff?

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General Comments

57. Please add any other comments that you think may be helpful to the SURF Program.

58. What is your name? - Not required, however it may be helpful.

Name:

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Thank you for your valuable input to the SURF Program. We hope that you will stay in contact.

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0033. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey/information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 40 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Attn: Dr. Brandi Toliver.

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