

## Introduction

**OMB Control #0693-0033**

**Expiration Date: 9/30/2025**

**Greetings! Thank you for participating in the SURF Program this year. We realize that you have options for gaining research experience and value your feedback regarding the NIST SURF Program. Note: 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:**

**Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3), this Privacy Act Statement serves to inform you of why the U.S. Department of Commerce (the Department), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is requesting the information on this form.**

**AUTHORITY:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 271 et seq. (which includes Title 15 U.S.C. 272) and section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended, 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:** The information solicited on this form may be made available as a "routine use" pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(a)(7) and (b)(3). The information may be made available to other federal agencies to assist the Department in connection with NIST's management of the purposes stated above; or for other authorized routine uses.

**A complete list of the routine uses can be found in the system of records notice associated with this form:**

**NIST-1:NIST Associates. This system of records notices can be found here:**

**<https://www.commerce.gov/opog/privacy/SORN>**

**CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION:** Providing this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may result in an inability for NIST to process, review, and/or act on such requests. In limited circumstances, NIST may authorize the submission of the requested information via paper forms pursuant to the requirements in 15 CFR 748.1(d).

**Please let us know which Lab you are in.**

\* 1. What Lab are you in?

- ☐ CTL
- ☐ EL
- ☐ ITL
- ☐ MML
- ☐ NCNR
- ☐ PML
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

\* 2. Which NIST campus sponsored your appointment?

- ☐ Boulder, CO
- ☐ Gaithersburg, MD
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

\* 3. Which format do you prefer for internships?

- ☐ Virtual all of the time
- ☐ In-Person/on campus all of the time
- ☐ Hybrid-Defined as a combination of in-person and virtual experience.
- ☐ No preference

## 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?

- ☐ Sophomore
- ☐ 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 (STEM)
- ☐ 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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SURF program has influenced my career direction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SURF Program influenced my decision to pursue a graduate degree?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have decided NOT to pursue a career in research.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Well-defined when I arrived or soon after.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A good match for my skill set.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interesting.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowed me to learn things in areas I did not know before.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Important.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structured so that I spent most of my time doing research.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. What did you like best about your project?

14. What did you like least about your project?

## Advisor

### We'd like to hear about your mentor.

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

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

\* 16. My Mentor:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Provided me with a sufficient level of supervision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowed me sufficient freedom in my research project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gave me a sufficient level of assistance in preparing my presentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Included me in group meetings and seminars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 17. Did you request your research mentor's assistance in your preparation for your final session presentation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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

19. What did you like best about your mentor?

20. What did you like least about your mentor?

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

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



## Social Interactions

**There were some opportunities for social interactions. How could social interactions be improved?**

22. Suggestions

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten or typed suggestions. It is positioned below the text '22. Suggestions'.

## Administrative

23. Did you encounter any significant administrative problems (stipend delay, computer issues etc.)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

24. Please comment on any significant administrative problems that might have occurred over the summer (e.g., problems with payment, computer issues, etc)

## Seminars and Lab Tours

**Seminars are an important component of the SURF program. They offer an opportunity for you to learn more about research outside of your laboratory.**

\* 25. In general, the technical seminars were useful or informative

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

\* 26. How many of the seminars did you attend?

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3-4
- ☐ 5-6
- ☐ 7 or more

27. Suggestions for next year's technical seminars (speakers)

28. Please provide suggestions for future professional development seminars.

## 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?

\* 29. How did you hear about the program (check all that apply)?

- ☐ My undergraduate advisor or other college professor
- ☐ Career Fair or conference - if you check this box, please identify the career fair in the "Other" box
- ☐ 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)

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

## Applying to the SURF Program

\* 31. Applying to the SURF program was straightforward

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

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

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion

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

\* 34. The NIST SURF webpages contained enough information for me to appropriately rank project preferences in my application

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ I did not visit the SURF webpages

\* 35. 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

\* 36. The amount of information that I received before coming to NIST was:

- ☐ Too much
- ☐ Just right
- ☐ Not enough

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

38. Suggestions

## Orientation

\* 39. In total, the first day's orientation program was:

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

40. Please list any areas of improvement for orientation.

## General Comments

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

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

Name:

43. What is an email address we can use to stay in communication with you? Not required, but it may be helpful.

44. If there anything you would like to discuss with the NIST SURF program director, please leave your name and contact info (email and/or phone number) here.



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

**This collection of information contains Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to be 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Attn: Cara O'Malley  
E-mail: [cara.omalley@nist.gov](mailto:cara.omalley@nist.gov)**

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