



Harvard College

Program for Research in Science and Engineering (PRISE)

2023-2024 Application Instructions

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Program for Research in Science and Engineering (PRISE) will run from Monday, June 3, 2024 to Thursday, August 8, 2024. **(The move-in and move-out schedule will be confirmed later this spring.)** PRISE offers fellows free lodging and a full board plan, and participants who are not receiving funding from another source (such as their labs or other fellowships like Herchel Smith) are eligible to receive a stipend to support other living costs. PRISE participation is open to any continuing undergraduate student who is in good standing and affiliated with a Harvard Faculty sponsored laboratory.

COMPONENTS & EXPECTATIONS

PRISE Fellows are expected to fully participate and contribute to the community of scholars in evening enrichment activities not associated with individual lab research throughout the term of the Program. While many activities are voluntary, other PRISE activities, especially those associated with faculty are mandatory for all fellows. **Individuals who are taking summer school courses, who are preparing to take the summer MCAT or other summer graduate school entrance exams, or who are engaged in full-time public service projects are not eligible to participate in PRISE.**

PRISE consists of the following components:

- **Residential life and community:** PRISE Fellows will live together in a Harvard residential House for the duration of the Program. PRISE will have on hand its own staff—including the director, resident dean, proctors, and program assistants—during the ten weeks of the Program.
- **Dining:** All PRISE Fellows have access to a full HUDS meal plan for the duration of the ten weeks.
- **Special Campus-wide Events and Evening Programs:** A special PRISE evening program series featuring prominent scientists in the Harvard community and the Boston area will be open to all Harvard undergraduates. Seminars for PRISE Fellows will include a number of topics specifically designed to augment and enrich their knowledge about scientific research and careers in sciences. Topics such as research ethics, poster presentations, and postgraduate career opportunities will be offered throughout the Program. In addition, Fellows will have the opportunity to practice speaking about their research in both small and large groups throughout the summer.
- **Recreational and Social Programs:** PRISE Fellows are eligible to register for free use of Harvard athletic facilities, including the Malkin Athletic Center, Hemenway Gymnasium, and Blodgett Pool. A calendar of activities will include a range of opportunities to socialize and take advantage of Boston's cultural and recreational summer offerings with your PRISE colleagues, including a variety of excursions, Red Sox games, and PRISE Fellow-initiated community events.

CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION.



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ELIGIBILITY

- Any continuing Harvard College undergraduate student in good standing; preference will be given to individuals who have not yet participated in a Summer Research Village Program.
- Must be able to commit 10 weeks* to summer research on campus.
- Must be participating in a research activity in the natural, physical, engineering, or applied sciences with a Harvard Faculty member in relevant academic departments and research centers in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Medical School, the School of Public Health, affiliated local research institutes and hospitals, and other academic and administrative units throughout the University. **[PLEASE NOTE: PRISE projects related to data science will also be considered for funding through SPUDS. If you intend to apply to SPUDS with the same project, you do not need to submit a separate SPUDS application.]**
- May accept funding for only **one** Harvard-funded summer experience, per the [Harvard College Summer Funding Policy](#).

***NOTE: Individuals taking summer school courses, preparing for the summer MCAT exam or other summer graduate school entrance exams, or engaging in full-time public service projects are not eligible to participate in PRISE.**

BENEFITS

PRISE offers a variety of benefits to ensure a successful summer research experience and enable fellows to form a close-knit community:

- A **living stipend of \$3,000** for the ten-week program, paid over two installments
- Free **lodging** in designated Harvard housing
- A full **boarding/dining** plan

SELECTION CRITERIA

Since the primary purpose of the Program is to build and foster a strong and diverse community of science scholars, a successful application will demonstrate the following:

1. A strong dedication to developing or furthering academic interest and excellence in scientific research;
2. A documented and verified opportunity to participate in a laboratory or other active research experience that fulfills a compelling and specific academic goal over the summer (confirmation may be submitted after the application deadline);
3. The ability and desire to participate actively and enthusiastically in a diverse residential community of scholars;
4. An academic record demonstrating success in coursework that develops theoretical knowledge and/or practical application of scientific principles (in course labs);

Evaluation of the applicant will be based on how well and how effectively the components of the application define and address these qualities and requirements.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND ORGANIZE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

■ **APPLICATION FORM**

Complete the online CARAT information, which will be compiled and displayed as your application cover sheet.

■ **CURRENT RESUME**

Indicate significant activities, achievements, and experiences in college that demonstrate your interests and potential achievements. **Do not exceed one page.**

■ **CURRENT UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

Download your unofficial transcript from my.harvard.edu, **including your fall course grades and spring course listing.**

■ **ESSAY RESPONSES**

In a separate document, please provide responses to the following two statements. Please be sure to include your name at the top of the page(s).

1. Briefly describe the research interest(s) you would like to pursue this summer and why. This essay should convince a committee of scientists in different fields that you have thought carefully about the science yourself and are not simply rewording material from Wikipedia or a lab web page. Please be as specific as possible, but describe the research in your own words. If you must use jargon, give your own descriptions of the technical terms you use. If you have not yet selected a lab or project, please describe your intended scientific interest, what you hope to learn, and how you expect the research experience will contribute to your academic goals. (500 words maximum.)

2. Describe how you will contribute to and benefit from participating in a diverse residential community of researchers. Please provide descriptions of your involvement in your Harvard house or dorm (or other communities, such as a club or team or volunteer program), with specific examples of your role in contributing to the cohesion and distinctive identity of the group. (750 words maximum.)

■ **EVALUATION FORM (NEW FOR SUMMER 2024)**

One evaluation form is required in lieu of a traditional recommendation letter. Send your recommender the Evaluation Form (linked here), which will guide them on the topics we would like addressed in their evaluation. Your evaluation form should be completed by someone in the Harvard academic/research community who can comment on your academic initiative and interest in pursuing excellence. This form may include brief examples of how you will benefit from PRISE. If your academic evaluator is also your summer faculty research host, they should also confirm your lab placement in that form; in this case, the evaluation form will also count as a letter of support, and therefore you do not need a separate confirmation letter. First-year students may consider a high-school academic/research evaluator.

HOUSE RECOMMENDATIONS: Applicants **do NOT** need to seek a residential letter of recommendation. Yard/House feedback will be solicited directly from URAF for all PRISE applicants. If you have a community-based reference who is not in your House community (e.g., coach), please contact your proctor or House Fellowship Advisor (HFA) so that they can be in touch with that individual to get feedback for your application.

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■ **CONFIRMATION LETTER FROM HOST LABORATORY**

A letter from your designated research principal investigator must confirm your placement in the lab, provide details about the proposed project, as well as to what extent and by whom you will be mentored. **The applicant may upload this to CARAT directly, or the faculty host may email it to undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu.** If your faculty host chooses to send the confirmation letter to URAF, they should email their confirmation letter in pdf format to undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu with PRISE and [YOUR LAST NAME] in the subject line. **If you do not have your host laboratory confirmed by the application deadline, please have your faculty host email their confirmation letter as soon as possible.**

If your faculty host is also your academic evaluator, your faculty host should confirm your lab placement in their evaluation form, which they will upload directly to CARAT on your behalf after you indicate them in the Reference section.

CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS.



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PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. **LOG IN TO [CARAT](#) USING YOUR HARVARDKEY** and confirm that your profile information is correct.
2. **"APPLY" TO THE [PRISE "FUNDING SOURCE"](#)**
Fill out all required fields.
3. **REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS (via "Recommendations" tab)**
You are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to solicit your PRISE evaluation at least three weeks ahead of the application deadline. Once you have provided name (Last, First) and contact information for your evaluator (referred to as a "recommender" by CARAT), **YOU MUST CLICK "Send recommendation request"** under each recommender's entry in order for CARAT to send the notification to your recommender's email. **"Save and Next" will NOT submit your recommendation requests.**
4. **[SEND YOUR EVALUATOR THE EVALUATION FORM ITSELF! It can be found by clicking here.](#)**
 - a. **Ask your evaluator to complete the evaluation form and upload it to CARAT in lieu of a recommendation letter. Only the form will be accepted; recommendation letters are not accepted for PRISE.**
5. **UPLOAD YOUR DOCUMENTS**
All documents must be submitted concurrently, in PDF format. No supplementary materials will be accepted.
6. **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION (via "Submission" tab)**
Enter your HUID and click "Submit." The date and time of your submission will be noted, and late applications will not be accepted. Please note that you **do not need to wait** for your evaluator to submit their evaluation to submit your materials.

If you or your evaluator have questions about this application or the online submission process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at (617) 495-5095 or undergradresearch@fas.harvard.edu.

■ **DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 AT 11:59pm (EST)**