

What if you want to go on a WIP trip (overlaps the first week of SPUR)?

You may participate in both programs, but you must schedule a meeting with Dr. Asher before you leave for WIP.

Are you at a disadvantage if you have never had another research experience?

No, SPUR is primarily intended for freshmen and sophomores who may be looking for their first research experience.

Is it possible to get independent-study credit?

It is against University policy for you to get credit for a program for which you will be receiving a stipend.

Is it okay for my SPUR project to be on-going, i.e. can future research be based on the summer project?

Yes - for example, it might be possible for you to continue your research in an independent study. Please be sure to explain clearly in your application what you plan to accomplish in the 10 weeks and how that fits into your long-term research plans.

Can you participate in SPUR as well as University Scholars or another summer research program?

You cannot be paid twice for the same work. You are expected to put in approximately 20 hours of work per week on your SPUR project. You may use the rest of your time for another project, job or class.

Are faculty members aware of the program?

Faculty members have been informed of the program via email, but you may encounter someone who is unaware of the program. You may refer them to Dr. Asher if they have any questions.

Should we contact potential faculty advisors directly?

Yes, applicants are expected to initiate contact with possible faculty advisors. Before you approach a potential advisor, you should have narrowed your research interest and identified specific research questions. The faculty member can help you further refine your proposal.

Can I work with more than one faculty advisor?

Yes, each advisor must sign an advisor approval form and must also approve your final written report.

Can I work with faculty advisors in multiple schools?

Yes

Can I work on a project with another student?

Though it is possible for two students to jointly apply, the project must be large enough in scope to justify having more than one researcher. Please note that a joint proposal must clearly state the roles of each student.

Is it possible for me to do some of my research in another country for part of the time?

The program is designed to be in residence at Penn. Any exceptions to this would need to be discussed with the program director.

Can I extend my SPUR housing until the end of my Summer Session 2 class?

You may extend your housing for a modest cost. Please note that you must notify us before SPUR begins in May.