

**Complete student applications must be submitted to the
Office of Undergraduate Research (104 Burruss Hall)
by DEADLINE of February 5, 2018 at noon.**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is one of the nation's premier institutions for the physical and engineering sciences. The NIST Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURF) offers unique research and training opportunities for undergraduates, providing them a research-rich environment and exposure to state-of-the-art equipment. NIST SURF applications are now being accepted for Summer 2018, for research at two program locations in **Gaithersburg, MD** and **Boulder, CO**. Program dates are May 21 through August 3 for SURF Boulder and May 29 through August 10 for SURF Gaithersburg. More information about the program and research offered at each site are available at: <https://www.nist.gov/surf>.

In order to apply, **students must submit a complete application to the Office of Undergraduate Research for internal review** and subsequent submission to NIST. NIST will review all applications and select appropriate candidates for each of the available research areas. The deadline to submit applications for internal Virginia Tech review is **February 5, 2018 at noon**. Students will be informed of the status of their application via email directly from NIST by mid-April, 2018. Successful students will receive funding for travel and lodging (up to \$4,000) and a stipend (\$5,500).

Eligibility. Students must be a US Citizen or permanent resident, registered as an undergraduate student at a US university with a scientific/engineering major at time of application, considering pursuing a graduate degree (MS or PhD), able to commit to eleven (11) continuous weeks from 8:30am to 5pm during the summer of 2018, and it is recommended that the student have a GPA of 3.0 or better, out of 4.0. Students pursuing the following majors are particularly encouraged to apply: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron research, and/or physics.

Application instructions. Students may apply to both program locations, but will need to submit a **separate complete application packet for each**. Per NIST guidelines, no more than eight (8) VT undergraduates will be nominated for the Boulder site. VT will select the most compelling applications for submission to this site. There is no limit to the number of applications submitted to the Gaithersburg site.

Each student application package will consist of:

1. Application checklist
https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/11/27/surf_application_checklist.pdf
2. Student Application Form
https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/11/22/surf_student_application_form_2018_1.pdf
3. Resume, including activities, honors and awards, if any;
4. Two letters of recommendation;
5. Transcripts (unofficial copies acceptable);
6. Personal statement of commitment to participate in the program and work in a laboratory environment, a description of prioritized research interests (see <https://www.nist.gov/surf> to select research areas of interest), career goals, and interest in pursuing graduate studies, if any; and

7. Verification of citizenship or permanent legal residence (e.g. **legible** copy of permanent resident card, birth certificate, passport, etc);
8. Personal narrative: one **brief** general summary paragraph (no more than 100 words maximum) describing the student, e.g. any notable and relevant achievements, research interests, academic/career goals, etc.

Please submit each item above as a separate **single-sided** document, with text font size no smaller than 10. **NOTE: All submitted pages and documents (including copies and letters of recommendation) must include "Virginia Tech" and the student's name in the top right corner of each page.** If submitting applications to both sites, the student must submit two **complete** application packets. Students must include all items with their application packets, including letters of recommendation (do not have your reference writers submit their letters separately). **Incomplete applications or unlabeled paperwork will not be reviewed.**

Applications must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Research located in 104 Burruss Hall. Application materials will not be accepted after noon on February 5, 2018.

If you have any questions related to this submission, please contact Keri Swaby (kswaby@vt.edu).

If you have *programmatic* questions, please contact Dr. Brandi Toliver (brandi.toliver@nist.gov).

We will say it again...this is a HARD deadline!!

Complete student applications must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Research (104 Burruss Hall) by DEADLINE of February 5, 2018 at noon.