



Tips for Applying to the BLIPS Program at Berkeley Lab To Ensure Best Chances of Placement

Key Dates

- **10 December 2010** – Online applications available
- **18 February 2011** - Deadline to complete and submit online application
- **4 March 2011** - Deadline to have letters of recommendation submitted online
- **4 March 2011** - Deadline for post-marked official transcripts mailed to:

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Center for Science and Engineering Education
One Cyclotron Road, MS 7-222
Berkeley, CA 94720
ATTN: BLIPS – transcripts

Transcripts should cover 9th grade through the first semester of 11th grade
Weighted GPA preferred, otherwise unweighted GPA as reflected on official transcripts accepted on application.
Note: There is no minimum GPA requirement to gain acceptance into the program.

- **31 May 2011** – Last day offers made to applicants

Application & Placement Process

1. Applicant completes and submits BLIPS Online Application, including email addresses of recommenders
2. An email is sent to recommender requesting recommendation for applicant; includes a link to application so recommender can submit online
3. Applicant mails official transcripts directly to LBNL
4. CSEE Selection Committee reviews anonymous applications and scores them according to the [BLIPS Application Review Rubric](#)
5. CSEE makes placements from applicant pool based on scores and available mentors
6. Applicants are notified of acceptance into the program by 31 May 2011

Please check the BLIPS Applicant Status Page frequently to monitor and ensure you meet all the requirements of the application process to be considered for the program

Note: Applicants that do not submit a completed application, recommendation letters or transcripts by deadlines will not be considered for the program.

Research Interests and Special Skills

We encourage you to look at the Berkeley Lab website, www.lbl.gov, to learn more about the Lab and the type of work we do here.

Please go to the below link to see the various divisions at the Lab and research projects:
<http://www.lbl.gov/LBL-Programs/divisions.html>

Explore the site and see if there are any research projects that you would find interesting. When completing the application, please speak to your passion for science and how it relates to some of the research we do at the Lab; this is really insightful when mentors are considering applicants.

Note: Lab experience is not required for acceptance into the program.

As you answer the essay portion of the application, please keep in mind that **scientist mentors will be looking specifically for your science background and interests in research**. Be sure that your answers to these questions also reference the areas of research that you have identified from searching on the LBNL website. You should not list a specific person's name, but do use as much detail about your interests as possible.

Ex., "I am interested in energy research" or "Science is a constantly changing, living entity and through the lab I want to explore what it truly is to become part of science" are not as strong or helpful as "I am interested in researching advanced vehicles and fuels, building more energy efficient infrastructures, semi-conductors and metals, or nanostructures" or "I want to gain experience in researching inertial confinement fusion (ICF). Within ICF, my interests are variable. I would prefer to either work on an experimental project, specifically, with diagnostic devices."

We strongly recommend drafting answers to essay questions in a word processing software first and copying and pasting the final version into the online application before submitting it online. Be very careful that your final version is free of typographical or grammar errors as well as including all pertinent information before you click on the "submit" button. **Proof read your essay** – It's a good idea to have parents, teachers and/or classmates review your essay answers for errors and to give you feedback on how to speak to your research interests and skills.

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required from:

- A past or present high school science or math teacher who can discuss the academic skills you have developed that may be applicable to laboratory research - (REQUIRED)

AND/OR

- Someone who can comment on your passion for science via extracurricular activities (e.g. a Robotics Team Advisor, Science Bowl Coach)
- Someone who can speak about your role as a student (e.g. principal, school counselor)

These recommendations will be used by CSEE and your potential scientist mentor to consider you for placement. Remember that potential mentors will be looking for your background and experience in science, technology, engineering, math or research.

Requesting a letter of recommendation:

- Communicate with recommenders no later than 3 weeks prior to application deadline.
- Provide recommenders with a personal statement about your research interests and why you want to participate in the program
- Include a CSEE BLIPS flier, or a link to the BLIPS page on the CSEE website:
<http://csee.lbl.gov/Programs/BLIPS/index.html>
- Confirm recommenders' email addresses prior to submitting application
- Follow up with recommenders frequently to ensure all recommendations are submitted by 4 March 2011

Submitting Your Application

**Note: ALL APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ONLINE ARE FINAL!
YOU CANNOT MAKE CHANGES AFTER HITTING THE "SUBMIT" BUTTON!**

Proofread your final version to be sure that it is free of typographical or grammar errors as well as including all pertinent information before you click on the "submit" button.