



Science Influencers Immersive Learning Experience GUIDELINES

Description

The *Science Influencers* program provides students with formal science communication training and Research and Extension Experiences (REEs) to become effective science influencers. One component of this year-long program is financial support for approved outreach experiences, known as immersive learning experiences (ILEs). Formal presentations and participation in professional development activities at domestic or international research conferences or professional meetings are appropriate ILEs. International travel for study, research, and/or internships also are acceptable outreach experiences. ILEs promote the ideals of globalization and diversity throughout the Texas A&M University System, as well as increase undergraduates' opportunities and potential for success after graduation.

The *Science Influencers* program provides stipends to support students' ILEs. **ILEs typically require credit-bearing experiences to qualify for the stipend.** Possible ILEs include:

- Study Abroad (course credits)
- Research (domestic or international; research credits)
- Internship Abroad (requires an internship agreement and credits)
- Research Conference or Professional Meeting (domestic or international; directed studies credit)
- Volunteer Experience (domestic or international; directed studies credit)

Pre-ILE (Prior approval)

Students identify ILEs that support their REEU program interest. The ILE must be an experience that bears credit at the student's institution. Students complete an ILE Approval Form, including a brief rationale, expected products/outcomes, and an estimated budget. Budget items may be listed as general categories of expenses (travel, lodging, supplies, miscellaneous) in the Approval Form. International internships require an internship plan and agreement between the student, field supervisor directing the student's daily field activities, and faculty director.

During the ILE

During the ILE, students develop blog or vlog posts about the ILE and/or develop works for presentation or publication following the ILE. International internships require student and supervisor evaluations, records, journaling, and post-internship reports.

Post-ILE

Each student will submit an ILE portfolio containing a combination of products. Examples of possible portfolio items include:

- Photo essays
- Journals or reflections
- Blog or vlog posts during the experience
- Work examples (writing samples from the study/research/internship abroad)
- Publications or presentations (e.g., research or poster abstracts, newspaper/magazine/journal articles; note: one publication is required)

Finally, each student will give a presentation about their ILE during a *Science Influencers*' cohort meeting.