

To: Undergraduate Math Majors
Date: January 30, 2024
Subject: Summer Program Funding Requests
From: Michelle Matel, Undergraduate Administrator
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Dear Math majors and prospective majors: The purpose of this memo is to advise you of summer research funding opportunities for Princeton University math majors. The summer research program is primarily to support work with a faculty member of the Princeton Mathematics Department. In some cases, we also support participation in a summer research program elsewhere in the US (e.g. REUs at other schools). IMPORTANT NOTE: To be eligible for funding for summer research in Summer 2024, you must have been enrolled during the 2023-2024 academic year (i.e. you can't have been on leave). Please review the following:

1. SUMMER PROGRAM FOR MATHEMATICS MAJORS, 2024

Once again, the Princeton University Mathematics Department expects to support a number of undergraduate mathematics majors for a research program this summer. The summer research program runs for 12 weeks, and participating students will be required to meet with their mentors for at least 8 weeks during the summer period (Monday, June 3 through Friday, August 30), where the total period of time could be split into two or three shorter periods, if approved. We expect that supported students will devote at least 20-25 hours/week to their research. Our summer stipend is \$5,000.

The goal of this program is to provide math majors with the opportunity for reading and study in some areas of mathematics that are not part of the regular program of courses offered by the Mathematics Department. The requirements are:

- Each student will work under the direction of a faculty member in the Mathematics Department. (Ideally, this would be an opportunity for each student to learn not just a body of mathematics but also to be able to engage in some independent investigation.)
- Students interested in applying to participate in this program must find a faculty member in the Mathematics Department who agrees to serve as the student's adviser for the period of the program. Part of the application will be a proposal, a substantial description of the topic that the student will pursue. Before the summer program can be approved, the faculty adviser and the student will outline the program of reading

and study. The faculty adviser will meet regularly with the student during the summer. (The organization and conduct of each student's program will be up to the individual faculty members involved; implementation could vary considerably depending on the topic and goal that the student and advisor agree upon.)

- The faculty member must upload a memo/letter stating that they approve the program of reading and study and agree to serve as the student's advisor.
- At the end of the summer, the student will submit a report detailing their research activities to the Undergraduate Administrator.

2. SUMMER FUNDING REQUESTS: Participation in *other* programs

For Math majors who are requesting funding to attend a summer REU that is being held elsewhere in the US, you will need to submit the following:

- A description of the REU program, including any links to the program,
- An outline of the proposed activity, and
- Information on the funds you are requesting

Financial information on each REU should also be included in the description of the program. A letter of recommendation from a faculty adviser is NOT required in this instance. If our funding is awarded, the student will be required to submit the letter of acceptance into the REU prior to funds being paid out. We do not typically provide funding if the REU is also providing support. Because acceptance to programs is not guaranteed, we would strongly urge you to have a backup plan in place. You can apply for both REU funding and a research project as described in (1) above; you should indicate your preferred project, and let your potential faculty advisor know that you're applying to both their project and an REU.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

- Math majors (i.e. students who will be a senior at Princeton University in Fall 2024 and have declared their major as mathematics, or current sophomores who will declare as math majors) who wish to participate in our summer program or who are requesting departmental funding to participate in a summer math program outside of Princeton should upload an outline of the proposed activities for Summer 2024. To do this, visit <http://www.princeton.edu/studentfunding/>. To search for our funding opportunity, the activity type is "independent project"; the location is "on

campus” or “off campus (domestic)”; the duration is “8 or more weeks”; and the time of year is “summer break”. You should also indicate the name of your faculty adviser (unless the application is for REU funding), who will be asked to upload his/her approval and support of the proposal as a “recommender”. All complete proposals will be reviewed by the Chair and Associate Chair. In the event that we receive more proposals than the number we can fund, preference will be given to current juniors (Class of 2025).

- For those students applying to our summer program, proposals should explicitly indicate the topic(s) to be pursued.
- **Deadline for applications:** February 16, 2024.
- Students will be notified by March 8 if they have been accepted into our summer research program, or if funding will be available for their participation in an outside summer program.
- Sophomores who have been accepted into our summer research program who subsequently declare a major other than mathematics will have the acceptance withdrawn.
- **IF ACCEPTED:** Participating students will be **required** to submit a short paper summarizing their summer research activities **by September 13, 2024**. (This could be in the form of a paper to be submitted for publication or, alternatively, a detailed summary of what you have accomplished during the course of the summer program.) Students who are requesting funding for housing will be required to upload the receipt for summer housing costs.
- Students will need to make their own arrangements for off-campus summer housing; on-campus housing will be arranged in consultation with the Undergraduate Administrator. On-campus housing will be available June 2 – August 4. A memo describing the on-campus housing process will be distributed separately.

Copies: Professor Igor Rodnianski, Chair
Professor János Kollár, Associate Chair & Director of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Alex Ionescu, Senior Advisor
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