

REU Frequently Asked Questions

1. Application Questions:

- a. When is the application due?

To be considered for the summer of 2022 session, complete applications must be received prior to 5:00 AM EST, on February 18, 2022. However, since complete applications are reviewed as received, it will increase your chances of being selected if you submit sooner.

- b. What constitutes a complete application?

*In addition to completion of all questions on the application form, we must receive **two** letters of recommendation and a copy of your most current transcript. Both the transcript and the letters of recommendation can be sent electronically directly by the student to christina.vontorne@maine.edu.*

- c. Does my transcript need to be “official?”

If your college will send a copy directly with no fee incurred on your part an official copy is fine. If you can access your academic record directly, it is sufficient to scan and send a copy of your transcript. It is important that your GPA appear on the document that you send. Please email the transcript to christina.vontorne@maine.edu

- d. When will my application be reviewed?

As soon as we have received a complete application (see question 1.b.), your application will be reviewed.

- e. If I do not currently have a passport, how soon will I need to get one?

Since all participants are required to spend the last week of the program in Chile, you may not attend the program without a passport. You can still apply for the program, but you will need to secure a non-expired passport as soon as possible. If you are being considered as one of the cohort group and you do not currently have*

*Subject to possible travel restrictions

a valid passport, we reserve the right to delay your acceptance until you send proof of having received one.

- f. How many people typically apply and how many are selected?

We typically receive around 100 applications and 10 students are selected.

- g. When will I be notified of my status?

The reviewers should make a decision within two weeks of the application deadline. You will be notified via email as to one of three outcomes: an offer letter, a wait list letter, or a declination letter.

- h. If I am not selected this year, can I apply again next year?

Subsequent year applications may be considered. However, you will need to wait for the subsequent year application form to become available on the website (usually by the first week of December). It should be noted that those students completing their sophomore year are ideal candidates. However, we would consider exceptional students completing their junior year.

- i. What are the start and end dates for the program?

This year's program begins on Monday, June 6, 2022 in Orono, Maine and ends on Friday, August 12, 2022 in Santiago, Chile.*

- j. Do I need to attend the entire program?

Yes. All participants are required to arrive the weekend prior to the start day to check in and get acquainted as well as attending the entire culminating week in Chile.*

- k. Will I be guaranteed a research project that suits my interests?

We do our very best to pair you with a mentor and a project within your requested area of interest. Once you are accepted, we will put you in direct communication with your mentor and you can discuss proposed projects.

*Subject to possible travel restrictions

2. Logistical Questions for Those Selected

- a. How much is the stipend and when is it disbursed?

You will receive a stipend of \$500 per week for a total of \$5,000 for the entire ten week program. You will be paid in 2 installments of \$2,500 each (one on June 10, 2022 and one on July 15, 2022). The funds will be sent directly to your home address. In the event that there will be no one there to receive the check, we can have the check delivered here. Some of you may have phone apps that allow you to deposit checks in that manner.

- b. Which costs do I need to pay out of pocket?

All of your lodging and meals served at your lodging during the work week (Monday through Friday) will be covered. You will need to cover the costs of your weekend meals, the costs of any personal items needed, work week meals eaten at a venue other than your provided lodging, evening and weekend excursions off campus (excluding for those sponsored by the program), and all meals and souvenirs purchased during the week in Chile.*

- c. How are my travel arrangements made?

The program covers all travel costs from your home to the University of Maine, from the University of Maine to Chile, and from Chile* back to your home. We will work directly with our contracted travel agency. The agent will work directly with you regarding departure and arrival times and airports. If you live within driving distance to campus, you may choose to drive from your home to Maine. Mileage costs of the drive will be reimbursed (up to the value of corresponding airfare). Your baggage fees except excess baggage will also be reimbursed.*

- d. Can dietary restrictions be accommodated?

Yes. Vegetarian and vegan meal options will be available. Allergies to nuts, fruits, etc. can also be accommodated.

*Subject to possible travel restrictions

e. What are the room and board accommodations like?

Specific room and board details are still undetermined. It is likely that all participants will live on campus in the dorms. We will update this information as further details become available.

f. Is off-campus travel permitted?

Yes. On evenings and weekends when other events are not planned, students can make their own arrangements to travel for recreation.

g. Is a vehicle permitted on campus?

Yes. You will be permitted to have your own vehicle on campus and parking a parking pass can be provided. There will be several bicycles on loan from the University for your use as well.

3. What Do I need to pack?

- *Clothing: It can be chilly in Maine in the evenings, but also very warm during the day, so prepare to dress in layers. You will need to dress practically for working in laboratories (long pants, close-toed shoes, etc). If your placement requires a respirator, safety goggles, etc. those items will be dealt with on an individual basis. Make sure to pack at least one business attire outfit for your culminating presentations in Chile*. A bathing suit and work out clothing would be advisable. As well as a recreational center on campus, there are outdoor swimming and recreational areas nearby. Bring sturdy shoes for hiking and touring in Chile*. A raincoat, sweatshirt and hat are advisable.*
- *Bedding: a set of sheets, a blanket and a pillow will be needed. A washing machine is available on the premises so one set is sufficient.*
- *Academic Needs: Although not required, a laptop is advisable. Please bring a notebook, writing implements, etc. You will have access to the University of Maine library and will spend some time there doing research.*

*Subject to possible travel restrictions

All medications, personal hygiene items, etc. will be your responsibility. Although some can be purchased here, you may want to bring your own with you. There are a few stores and restaurants within walking distance of campus.

Vaccination requirements:

The University System currently requires students who are on campus in-person to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This may change depending on the COVID-19 spread.

All students are required to complete one of the following

1. Verify that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine that is either fully approved by the FDA, or approved under the FDA emergency use authorization, or approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. A request for verification is required to be submitted and approved through the UMS online COVID-19 vaccination verification portal (<https://umaineportal.pointnclick.com/>). Students are encouraged to verify their first vaccination through the [UMS online COVID-19 vaccination verification portal \(External Site\)](#) as soon as their first vaccination is received and then, if receiving a two shot COVID-19 vaccine, to enter their second vaccination through the [UMS online COVID-19 vaccination verification portal \(External Site\)](#) as soon as their second vaccination is received; or
2. Obtain an exemption from the University's COVID-19 vaccination requirement. Requests for exemptions are required to be submitted and approved through the [UMS online COVID-19 vaccination verification portal \(External Site\)](#). Additionally, all exempt, unvaccinated students are required to adhere to public safety protocols to include masking, regular asymptomatic testing (may include multiple tests per week), and as applicable, quarantine and isolation consistent with University standards.

*Subject to possible travel restrictions

Compliance:

- Students participating in any on-campus experience will be required to verify their ongoing compliance with the UMS COVID-19 protocols through a University-designated electronic platform.

University of Maine System (UMS) COVID-19 Risk Statement: The University of Maine System continues to support safety and health in the University community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including by encouraging employees, students, and visitors: to stay home if sick; to follow all applicable UMS and public health COVID-19 pandemic guidance and protocols; and, to stay informed about changes and updates in guidance and protocols. The University consistently takes steps in response to changing COVID-19 pandemic circumstances in an attempt to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or the spread of any other communicable illness) in accordance with applicable law, regulation, and guidance provided by health authorities. Despite these efforts, the University cannot guarantee that any person entering University campuses or facilities will not contract COVID-19 or any other communicable disease and any such person must assess and accept the risks of illness or injury for themselves.

-