

REU Frequently Asked Questions

1. Application Questions:

- a. When is the application due?

To be considered for the summer of 2024 session, complete applications must be received prior to 5:00 PM EST, on Friday, February 23, 2024. 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 **one** letter of recommendation and a copy of your most current transcript. The transcript can be sent electronically directly by the student christina.vontorne@maine.edu. The letters of recommendation **MUST** be emailed **directly from the letter's author** 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 .pdf 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?

Your application will be reviewed upon receipt of a completed application packet (application form, transcript, one letter of recommendation).

- 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 Finland, you may not attend the program without a*

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

- f. What about vaccination requirements?

Applicants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 per University policy and international travel requirements. Proof of compliance will be required.

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

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

- h. 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.

- i. 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.*

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

This year's program begins on Monday, June 3, 2024 in Orono, Maine and ends on Friday, August 9, 2024 in Finland.*

- k. 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 Finland.*

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- I. 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.

2. Logistical Questions for Those Selected

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

You will receive a stipend of \$700 per week for a total of \$7,000 for the entire ten week program. You will be paid in 2 installments of \$3,500 each (one on July 5, 2024 and one on August 5, 2024). 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 Finland.*

- 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 Finland, and from Finland* back to your home. Our contracted travel 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 will also be reimbursed.*

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d. Can dietary restrictions be accommodated?

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

e. What are the room and board accommodations like?

At the University of Maine, students will stay in apartment-style dorm units on campus. Most students will have their own bedroom but will share kitchen and restroom facilities with their apartment-mates (four to six students per 4-bedroom dorm unit). Students will likely stay in a hotel during the final week of the program in Finland.

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.

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 Finland*. 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 Finland*. A raincoat, sweatshirt and hat are advisable.*
- *Bedding will be provided, but you will need to bring your own towels and washcloths. Free use of on-campus laundry facilities is included during your stay.*

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- *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.*
- *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.*