



Student and Parent Frequently Asked Questions

What is ASE?

The ASE Program matches high school freshman, sophomores and juniors with scientists and engineers for eight week, summer internships in professional environments. More than 3000 students have participated in the program since 1990. ASE is a program of Saturday Academy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

What is the time commitment?

Internships involve an 8-week commitment between mid-June and the end of August. This includes 37 days of full-time work at the mentoring organization (approximately 8 hours/day) and three events: an ASE Orientation in late May/early June, the Midsummer Conference in mid-July and the Symposium at the end of August. Participation in all three events is required in order to successfully complete the program. Students will also spend time outside of their internship preparing for their Symposium presentations and may also be assigned reading by their mentors. We strongly encourage interns to make the internship their primary activity of the summer.

What does an ASE student do for the summer?

Some students work on special projects designed to be completed in the eight weeks; others contribute to the ongoing work of their mentors. Mentors' internship descriptions are posted on the website in the winter before the final application is due. We require that internship projects are substantive. Examples of past positions can be found at www.saturdayacademy.org/ase on the positions page.

Does it cost anything? Do the students get paid?

ASE internships are educational experiences and are supported by contributions from participating companies, grants from partnering organizations and program fees. There is a \$25 application fee (paid by applicants who complete the final application) and a \$250 program fee (paid only by students selected for internships); both help offset expenses associated with the internship. Stipends are paid to interns depending upon the contributions allocated by their mentor and granting agencies. Students who qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program will have all fees waived and are guaranteed a \$1000 stipend.

What are the benefits of an ASE internship?

ASE interns gain scientific knowledge, technical skills and professional experience. The impact of the ASE Program goes far beyond the eight weeks in the internship. Most interns receive school credit for successfully completing the internship and participating in the conferences. Some interns are credited as co-authors of professional publications or for products used by their mentors. All students gain a clearer and more specific understanding of the academic preparation they will need for a career in science and engineering. In addition, ASE experience looks great on college and scholarship applications.

What's the timeline?

October -December	Parent/student information sessions
Mid November	Preliminary applications available online
January 21	Preliminary application due
February – March	ASE Essay Writing workshops and Interview Skills workshops take place
February 18	Official High School Transcripts due
March 1	Final application due
May 13	Student-mentor matches complete
Late May/ Early June	Student Orientation
Mid July	ASE Midsummer Conference for interns at OSU
Late August	ASE Symposium
End of August	All Internships Completed

How do I sign up?

Contact us to get on our mailing list. Attend an Information Session (listed on the ASE website). Then complete the Preliminary and Final Applications online. We also encourage you to attend writing and interview workshops in your area.