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COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FUNDING-LUMIERE

RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Founded by Harvard & Oxford researchers, the Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program is a mentored research program for talented students. In the program, students work 1-1 with a researcher from a top university to produce an independent research project.

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WE HELP STUDENTS

Create an independent research paper

Stand out in the admissions process

Build relationships with PhD researchers from top universities

Receive credit from UC San Diego Extension

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COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FUNDING-LUMIERE RESEARCH PROGRAM

BY THE NUMBERS

2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

9,500+
Applications

2,200+
Mentors

23,000+
Mentoring hours

143
Countries

$760,000+
In financial aid

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AVAILABLE AREAS FOR RESEARCH

STEM

- Data Science
- Physics & Astrophysics
- Biology
- Computer Science
- Neuroscience
- Medicine
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Architecture

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Economics
- Psychology
- Business
- International Relations
- Environment Studies
- Gender Studies
- History
- Philosophy
- Education
- Classics
- Law
- Linguistics
- Sociology

* Please check application form for updated list of topics for the topic focused program
* Students will also be able to customize their own research topic, if not currently available in the above offerings
* We're happy to support students on interdisciplinary research topics that combine one or more subjects as well!

OUR MENTORS

Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program
has 2200+ mentors from top universities

Columbia University
Princeton University
The University of Chicago
Cornell University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Harvard University
UCLA
Brown
Yale
University of Oxford

EXAMPLE MENTOR PROFILES

CAITLIN NICHOLS

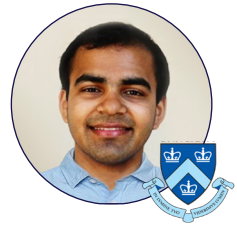
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
PhD in Biological and Biomedical Science

SPECIALIZATION
Cancer Genetics, CRISPR Gene Editing, Molecular Biology

PRAISE OWOYEMI

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
PhD student in Clinical Psychology

SPECIALIZATION
Psycho-oncology, Clinical Psychology, Health Psychology



BHARGAV GOPAL

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PhD in Economics

SPECIALIZATION
Labor Economics, Law and Economics, Applied Statistics

SANAH BHIMANI

YALE UNIVERSITY
PhD candidate in Physics

SPECIALIZATION
Cosmology (Evolution of the Universe), Exoplanet Data Analysis

SAMUEL LEITER

MIT UNIVERSITY
PhD candidate in International Affairs

SPECIALIZATION
Nuclear Proliferation, Preventive War, East Asian Security, Alliance Politics

EXAMPLE PROFESSOR PROFILES

ROBERT LYON

Field: Business, Entrepreneurship, & Strategy

Current school teaching at:
New York University

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
New York University

Specific Field:
Issues and ideas at nexus of business and society. Sustainability, next generation economic modalities, circular economy, attention economy, environmental economics

ALEXEI PARAKHONYAK

Field: Economics

Current school teaching at:
University of Oxford

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Specific Field:
Game Theory, Industrial Organization, Competition Policy,
Economics of Platforms

YARROW DUNHAM

Field: Psychology

Current school teaching at:
Yale University

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
Harvard University

Specific Field:
Social psychology, developmental, psychology, cultural psychology, quantitative methods in the social sciences

SHOBHANA MURAL STOYANOV

Field: Mathematics

Current school teaching at:
University of California, Berkeley

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
Georgia Institute of Technology

Specific Field:
Statistics

BRENDA RUBENSTEIN

Field: Physics & Astrophysics

Current school teaching at:
Brown University

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
Columbia University

Specific Field:
The quantum mechanics and quantum computing of molecules, data science for chemical and materials discovery, biomolecular simulation

RICHARD E PAYNE

Field: History & Civilisations

Current school teaching at:
University of Chicago

University of PHD/ Last Degree:
Princeton University

Specific Field:
Ancient and Medieval History (Greece, Rome, the Middle East/Islamic, Silk Road)

PROGRAMS OFFERED

	INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM	PREMIUM RESEARCH & PUBLICATION PROGRAM	RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM	PROFESSOR PREMIUM PUBLICATION PROGRAM
Individual sessions with mentor	9	15	30	10
Individual sessions with writing coach	2	4	6-8	4
Individual sessions with publication specialist	-	4	4	4
Program oversight from Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program manager	✔	✔	✔	✔
Mentor type	PhD fellow and post-doc	PhD fellow and post-doc	PhD fellow and post-doc	Professors from Top 20 universities
Goal output	College-level academic paper	Publication in high-school or college-level journal*	Highly selective research competition or publication*	Publication in high-school or college-level journal*
Cost & Duration *USD	**$2280 USD** 12 weeks	**$5900 USD** 3-4 months research time, .1-4 months publication time	**$9340 USD** 6-12 weeks	**$9340 USD** 3-4 months research time, .1-4 months publication time

*No academically rigorous program can or should promise publication. We provide support for 3 rounds of submission to selective high-school or college-level journals.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Week 1: Meet with mentor and align on a topic

Week 2-4: Explore the topic and identify research question

Week 5-9: Write research paper with support from research mentor and writing coach

Week 10-12: Make final edits and submit paper for final evaluation

After week 12: Graduation ceremony and symposium! Students in the Premium Research & Publication Program will continue to meet with their mentor and submit their paper to a journal for publication

* This is the timeline for our Individual Research Program & Premium Research & Publication Program. The Fellowship will have a distinct extended timeline.

Opt to receive 3 units of post-baccalaureate credit from UCSD Extended Studies at the end of the program.

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SELECTED STUDENT PROFILES

OJAS GUPTA

SCHOOL: Lynbrook High School

RESEARCH TOPIC:
Exploring the role of Humanin as a potential preventative and therapeutic in Alzheimer's disease.

EXPERIENCE:
"The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program paired me up with the perfect mentor, who helped my turn my ambitions of doing research in biology into a reality. The program schedule was extremely flexible, and helped me create two separate projects in our time together. The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program and my mentor helped me create concrete projects around my passions and have empowered me to keep pushing the boundaries of science."

Ojas was the winner of the MIT THINK competition, where he submitted his Community Educational Funding-Lumiere research project.

ALEXANDRA GIULIANI

SCHOOL: International School of Monaco

RESEARCH TOPIC:
Cancer mRNA Vaccines as a Promising Approach for Treating Luminal A Breast Cancer.

EXPERIENCE:
"With the support of The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program's team and my mentor, Dr. Daniel Wilson, I wrote a paper that proposes new possibilities for breast cancer treatments. My project has now led me to get more hands-on experience in the field of cancer research, and I'm excited to be interning this summer in a lab at the Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School."

Alexandra's Community Educational Funding-Lumiere research paper will be published in the International Journal of High School Research this year.

IDA THERESE PRESTEGÅRD HØVIK

UNIVERSITY: Yonsei University

RESEARCH TOPIC:
Holding Transnational Corporations to Account: A Comparative Analysis.

EXPERIENCE:
"I am in my final year of university, and am currently writing a second bachelor thesis, while also conducting research together with a professor. I thank the Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program for providing such a comprehensive program through which we could explore and conduct research of our own. My research mentor was such a pleasure to work with. She provided helpful advice and feedback, while also successfully keeping me from straying too far from my topic when I carried out my research. These meetings combined with the various workshops and many available resources, such as the writing center, made the The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program an unforgettable experience."

Ida's Community Educational Funding-Lumiere research paper was published in the Yale Review of International Studies.

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SELECTED STUDENT PROFILES

LILY ASHRAF

UNIVERSITIES ACCEPTED TO:
Princeton University

RESEARCH TOPIC:
How can the standard model of particle physics be consistently extended to include additional light-matter fields, and how might such fields explain dark matter?

EXPERIENCE:
"The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program truly helped me a lot! The admissions office at Princeton called my mentor and asked him questions about me. Because the university values research a lot, I got in! Thank you so much because with this program and this chance I would never ever be able to attend and get a full ride."

RIYA MAIYA

UNIVERSITIES ACCEPTED TO:
University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH TOPIC:
What were the initial conditions of the universe that permitted the growth of the structures we see today?

EXPERIENCE:
"I touched on my experience at The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program when explaining my previous background with the subject I was applying for, to show demonstrated interest. I also used the recommendation letter to apply to all the universities. I was accepted ED into Penn, and I'm so so happy about it (it was my top choice), and I couldn't have gotten here without your help. The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program's team really helped me narrow down exactly what I was interested in, learn more about it, and gave me a great experience to showcase to universities."

THÉO ABRAMO

UNIVERSITIES ACCEPTED TO:
University of California at Berkeley

RESEARCH TOPIC:
The impact of USA's and China's AI advancement on the European market, and its role in reshaping global power dynamics

EXPERIENCE:
"Alongside the guidance of my mentor, an MIT Political Science Ph.D. candidate, I published a paper exploring the US-China-EU tripartite relationship in the realms of artificial intelligence. Thanks to the Community Educational Funding-Lumiere's incredibly flexible program, I was able to have weekly meetings with my mentor and take part in other the Community Educational Funding workshops while still balancing my other engagements in school. The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Program has made navigating the complex world of academia an amazing experience and would recommend it to any motivated student."

PUBLICATIONS AND COMPETITIONS

Alumni have been published in top high school and college-level journals and excelled at competitions. Here are some of their successes!

OJAS

"Exploring the role of humanin as a potential preventative and therapeutic in Alzheimer's disease"

Winner of MIT THINK competition

SALIL

"To what extent have emerging social movements caused politicians to respond with effective social change?"

Winner of LSE Undergraduate Political Review's Annual Essay Competition

ZUNIAN

"Cap or No Cap? What Can Governments Do to Promote Electric Vehicle Sales"

Published in the Cornell Undergraduate Economic Review

JUSTIN

"What public political attitudes make countries prone to democratic backsliding?"

Featured on the Brown Journal of World Affairs podcast

ANNA

"How the CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing Complex Can Be Used to Treat Human ImmunodeficiencyVirus 1 and Sickle Cell Disease with Immune Cell Therapies and Genetic Engineering with Insight Into its Societal Impacts"

Published in Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology, and Society

SHAUNAK

"Using Neural Networks to Accurately predict Electrical energy within Point-Absorbers"

ISEF Regeneron national finalist; first place in regional ISEF fair

ALUMNI AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

In the class of 2029, The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Scholars had a college acceptance rate of 33%, while the overall acceptance rate was 12.4%. They received acceptances from 100+ universities, including:

8 HARVARD UNIVERSITY acceptances

10 CORNELL UNIVERSITY acceptances

5 BROWN UNIVERSITY acceptances

2 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY acceptances

2 YALE UNIVERSITY acceptances

1 STANFORD UNIVERSITY acceptances

5 DUKE UNIVERSITY acceptances

8 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA acceptances

We analyzed early admissions results from 379 The Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research Scholar students—comparing their outcomes to the general applicant pool to see how independent research helps students stand out in college applications. We found that students who included their Community Educational Funding-Lumiere Research projects in their college applications were 2.9x more likely to receive an acceptance!

Students that did the Research Scholar Program through the help of our financial aid program got into Princeton, Dartmouth and the University of Pennsylvania (with significant financial aid offers).

Alumni received scholarships worth more than an estimated 1 million USD such as the Trustee Scholarship at the University of Southern California (full ride), full scholarships to the University of Toronto, the Zollman Scholarship at Smith College (college's highest scholarship) and the Presidential Scholarship at Bryn Mawr College.

JUNIOR EXPLORER PROGRAM

A 8-week program for middle school students to explore their academic interests while building a project they are passionate about

WEEKS 1-4

Explore 4 different topics in selected track

WEEKS 5-6

Deep dive into one topic area and define your project

WEEKS 6-8

Build your project with support from the mentor

OUR PROGRAM

Program goal	Explore an academic field with an expert and build a unique project.
Structure	Weekly 1-1 virtual sessions with a mentor
Duration	8 weeks
Student profile	Grades 6-8
Pre-requisites	No prior experience required
Output	High school level project
Cost	$2690 Financial aid is available

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APPLICATION TIMELINE

SUMMER III COHORT 2026	**Application Deadline** 19 July, 2026	**Cohort Start Date** 3 August, 2026
FALL COHORT 2026	**Application Deadline** 23 Aug, 2026	**Cohort Start Date** 14 Sept, 2026
WINTER COHORT 2026	**Application Deadline** 15 Nov, 2026	**Cohort Start Date** 7 Dec, 2026
WINTER II COHORT 2026	**Application Deadline** 27 Dec, 2026	**Cohort Start Date** 11 Jan, 2027
SPRING COHORT 2027	**Application Deadline** 7 Feb, 2027	**Cohort Start Date** 1 Mar, 2027
SUMMER I 2027	**Application Deadline** Early Admission: 7 February, 2027 Priority Admission: 7 March, 2027 Regular Admission 1: 11 April, 2027 Regular Admission 2: 9 May, 2027	**Cohort Start Date** 31 May, 2027
SUMMER II 2027	**Application Deadline** 20 June, 2027	**Cohort Start Date** 12 July, 2027

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APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application:
Fill out an online application before the deadline

Interview:
Shortlisted students will be scheduled for an interview

Mentor Match:
Selected students will be matched with a mentor in their area of research interest

Start the program!

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RESEARCH PROGRAM