

Applying to the University of Connecticut Clinical Engineering Internship Program

The admittance process begins with the student's application to the UCONN School of Engineering Graduate Program (<http://grad.engr.uconn.edu/>). These applications are due by January 1st every year for consideration for the following fall semester. The program does not admit students in the middle of the academic year. The application includes an undergraduate transcript, an essay by the student and a resume. Foreign students must submit TOEFL and GRE scores. UCONN's School of Engineering will not accept students with an undergraduate GPA of less than 3.0.

Completed applications are reviewed in January and early February. 12-16 students are chosen to interview for the program. These students will then be scheduled for a four day visit to Southern New England in March to interview for available internship positions for the coming academic year. Each year, 8-12 funded UCONN internship positions become available in area hospitals. Some hospitals take two students and therefore have one opening each year and some hospitals take only one student.

Each student is expected to interview for every opening, the VA hospitals however, can only interview US citizens. This means that when the student is invited to interview, they should expect to meet and interview with the clinical engineering staff at each hospital accepting an intern that year. In order to expedite this process, groups of four students are invited to travel together to each of the hospitals. The candidates will attend interviews at three hospitals each day. The schedule, detailed driving directions and contact information at each location, will be provided as a guide prior to the interviews. The schedule is hectic, but very exciting as students make connections with hospital clinical engineers and gain valuable interviewing experience.

During the interviews candidates will meet the director of clinical engineering, the current intern(s) and perhaps others in the clinical engineering department. The interview format will vary from hospital to hospital, but the CE staff and the interns will ask the candidates questions about their background and interests and the candidates will have a chance to ask questions about the hospital or the internship experience there. At some point in the process the candidate will get a tour of the hospital and clinical engineering department. The candidates should be prepared for 8-12 formal interviews. The successful candidates prepare for these interviews as they would prepare for a formal job interview because they may be working at this hospital for 20 months.

At the end of the interview process, the students are expected to rate each hospital. Similarly, the clinical engineering departments rate each student candidate. During the first week of April, a matching process takes place to identify which students will be assigned to which hospital. When the decisions are finalized, each student is contacted with the results.

The hospitals currently in the program are Hartford Hospital, UCONN Health Center (*Farmington, CT*), Baystate Health Systems (*Springfield, MA*), West Haven VA Medical Center, Boston VA Medical Center, Providence VA Medical Center, Middlesex Hospital (*Middletown, CT*), Yale New Haven Hospital, UMASS Memorial Medical Center (*Worcester, MA*), Massachusetts General Hospital (*Boston, MA*), Brigham and Women's Hospital (*Boston, MA*), Rhode Island Hospital (*Providence, RI*), and Woman's and Infant's Hospital –ABM (*Providence, RI*).

If the candidate is accepted to the program they must arrive at their assigned hospital in August on Monday of the week prior to the first week of classes. This early arrival is necessary to complete any paperwork, physical exams, required vaccinations and orientation classes. This initial week will also allow interns to receive an assigned work location, tour the hospital to become familiar with the layout and meet key hospital staff. With these important orientation activities out of the way, the first week of classes essentially becomes the first formal week of work.

It is recommended that the Internship student select a living location near their assigned work location as they will only need to be on campus one or two days each week, but they are expected to be at their internship location nearly every weekday.

Contact John Enderle (jenderle@bme.uconn.edu, 860-486-5521) for questions about the application process, or Frank Painter (Clinical Engineering Program Director, frpainter@engr.uconn.edu, 203-261-8340) for questions about the internship program.