

UCONN | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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 (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, a resume and two letters of reference. 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 and students are chosen to interview for the program. During February and March interviews are conducted for internship positions starting in fall of the upcoming academic year. The interviews will be conducted via phone / Webex with the hospitals participating in the program. Each year typically, 8 to 12 funded UConn internship positions become available. Some hospitals have two students and therefore have one opening each year and some hospitals take only one student every other year.

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. During the interviews candidates may 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. 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.

Hospitals in the program this past year include Hartford Hospital (*Hartford, CT*), Baystate Health Systems (*Springfield, MA*), Middlesex Hospital (*Middletown, CT*), Yale New Haven Hospital (*New Haven, CT*), UMASS Memorial Medical Center (*Worcester, MA*), Massachusetts General Hospital (*Boston, MA*), Boston Children's Hospital (*Boston, MA*), Rhode Island Hospital (*Providence, RI*), Geisinger Medical Center (*Danville, PA*), VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (*Los Angeles, CA*) and the VA North Texas Healthcare System (*Dallas, TX*).

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 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 students select a living location near their assigned work location as they are expected to be at their internship location nearly every weekday.

Contact Dr. Dave Kaputa (david.kaputa@uconn.edu) or Carol Davis-Smith (carol.david-smith@uconn.edu) for questions about the internship program.