Research Science Institute Webinar Q&A

For the most important advice, please visit the RSI home page:
https://www.cee.org/research-science-institute
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Application

Who is eligible to apply?
All interested 11th graders can apply.

What are the selection criteria?
The RSI selection committee considers all of the information requested in the application. It is wise to provide complete responses to the essay questions and to make sure you have provided all of the requested information. The application page will open end of November.

What application materials are required to apply?
Students will need to complete the application, provide recommendations, transcripts and standardized test scores if available.

Will you require SAT/ACT/PSAT scores in the 2021 application cycle?
Due to Covid-19, we are aware that many students could not take the typical standardized tests. If you have scores, please send them. If not, we understand.

What type of background in STEM do students have when applying? Any tips before applying?
Students typically have taken the most rigorous STEM course(s) available to them in school and are pursuing activities and opportunities outside of school. Most students are leaders and are also giving back to their local community.

How important is prior research experience in selection?
Research experience is helpful but not required. The RSI selection committee reviews the applications holistically.

Do you have to have a specific question or research idea in mind to apply?
No. You need to share your passion for what you want to do.

How many students apply each year and what is the acceptance rate?
RSI receives over 1500 US applications and 300 international applications annually. Fifty US and 30 International students are selected.

Do you have rolling admissions or is everyone notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in March?
There is no rolling admission. All students are informed of their status in March.

Other questions:

2. Will you accept applications from international students this year? If so, from which countries? Do international students have a different application deadline?
RSI accepts 30 international students. Sponsors determine which countries will participate. The application deadline for international students will be mid-February.
If you are an international student, please contact RSI Program Director Maite Ballestero directly at maite@cee.org to learn which countries are likely to sponsor in '21.

3. My twin and I are both very interested in applying for RSI, but we have similar credentials/extracurriculars. Do you accept twins?
RSI had a set of twins in summer 2019. So, yes, twins are accepted!

4. How does the support program work after RSI? For example, if you wanted to reach out to a colleague, can you just email them and get in contact?
Typically, students ask the program director to recommend alumni in their research area to speak with and the program director makes an electronic introduction. RSI has a lively and engaged alumni community as well as a Facebook page for alumni to post information or ask questions.

5. Do you take classes based on your interest as well?
Yes.

6. How will you determine if RSI will be in-person or virtual? When will you know?
This is a difficult question to answer at this time. Massachusetts Institute of Technology has hosted RSI since1992. MIT and RSI leadership will continue to monitor the effects of Covid-19 and will make a decision on residential or virtual summer offering as soon as possible. Please check the website for updates.

7. What do you suggest for students who do not have much research experience?
Read research papers or articles in the areas that interest you and look at researchers' websites to learn what is being done at different labs. Ask friends what they are doing; speak with your teachers or family about your interests.

8. Does RSI support research in the field of mathematics?
YES!