

**PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE SCIENCES at CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2018**

**Application for position as
TEACHING ASSISTANT/COUNSELOR**

As the title implies, the position of Teaching Assistant/Counselor for PGSS has dual responsibility. The academic parts of the job (assisting with classroom, laboratory, homework and research activities) and the residential aspects of the job (social events, field trips, community-building) are of equal importance.

Teaching Assistant responsibilities include:

- Attending and helping with a core lecture course and a laboratory course in your area of expertise.
- Mentoring at least one team research project related to the subject area to which you are assigned.
- Attending special lectures and field trips related to your subject area.
- Attending and helping with at least one elective course.
- Arranging help sessions for homework.

Counselor responsibilities include:

- Providing for the health and safety of the students.
- Serving as a role model, in regard to teamwork and community-building.
- Arranging social activities - including dorm and field trips.
- Enforcing residence life dorm & curfew regulations.

PART I. General Information

Name

Name of University/College Currently Attending

Your Address at College City State Zip Code

Your Phone No. at College Your Home Phone No.

Your Home Address City State Zip Code

 Male Female _____
Sex (Circle One) Date of Birth Social Security No. (last 4 digits only)

Degree Program (Major) Current QPA or GPA

Last Year Completed (as of end of current academic year) e-mail address

Did you attend the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences (PGSS)? Yes___ No___
If yes, what year did you attend PGSS? _____

PART II. References

Please ask two people to write letters of reference in support of your application, and have them send their letters, by the application deadline, directly to the address below (either by postal mail or email).

Barry Luokkala, Ph.D., University Director
Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences
c/o Department of Physics
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Email: pgss@cmu.edu

Deadline: March 31

PART III. Qualifications and Preferences

1. Please attach your current resume or Curriculum Vitae and a current University transcript to this application form.
2. Please respond to the following questions, either in the space provided, or on separate sheets. These questions serve a dual purpose: They will provide you with some information about the program and your answers will give us a better understanding of your talents.

A. Why do you want to become a PGSS Teaching Assistant/Counselor?

- B. In which subject area(s) do you feel most qualified to assist? (If you mark more than one choice, please rank your preferences in numerical order, with 1 being your top choice. If you don't have a strong preference, just check your areas of interest.)**

_____ **Physics**

Lecture Emphasis: Special & General Relativity
Particle Physics
Cosmology
Lab Emphasis: Various topics in experimental physics

_____ **Chemistry**

Lecture Emphasis: Organic Chemistry
Molecular Structure
Aromatic Hydrocarbons
Examples of Reaction Mechanisms and Organic Synthesis
Lab Emphasis: Synthesis and Characterization of Transition Metal and Organic Compounds

_____ **Biology**

Lecture Emphasis: Biochemistry of Viruses
Lab Emphasis: Biochemistry, Cellular & Molecular Biology

_____ **Computer Science**

Lecture Emphasis: Fundamentals of Algorithms and Computer Programming
Abstraction, Recursion, Tree and Graph Algorithms, Algorithm Analysis
(Will likely be using Java on PC platforms.)
Lab Emphasis: Java programming methods; applets

_____ **Math**

Lecture Emphasis: Discrete Mathematics (Combinatorics & Graph Theory)
Lab Emphasis: (no lab course for math)

C. Teaching Assistant Qualifications. For each of the subject areas that you checked, please explain your qualifications in relation to courses you have had and/or lab work that you have done.

D. Counselor Qualifications. (See the list of Counselor Responsibilities at the top of Page 1.) Please explain any experience you have had in any of these areas and/or what you view as your primary focus in fulfilling these responsibilities.

E. Occasionally a problem arises that is dealt with by a counselor. Some examples of these are:

- **Homesickness.**
- **Lack of social skills or personality conflicts.**
- **Excessive noise or other inappropriate behavior.**
- **Academic insecurity or inability.**

Choose one of the above problems and explain how you would handle the situation.

All PGSS TA/Counselors will be expected to take up dormitory residency on the CMU campus on the morning of Wednesday, June 27, and will remain in residence until the morning of Sunday, August 5. Living quarters are in the same dormitory as the PGSS students.

PGSS TA/Counselors are not permitted to have other employment or to take courses while the PGSS program is in operation. (Carnegie Mellon students may take classes in Summer Session 1, but not in Summer Session 2.)

Stipend: \$2,500. Housing is included (in the PGSS dorm) as well as a food allowance.

Please keep a copy of this application for your records, since it includes dates of arrival and departure.

Return completed application to:

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c/o Department of Physics
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