2018 Societal Solutions Scholars Program

Program Overview

Program Objectives:

*Impact a community starting with your next internship*

The Societal Solutions Scholars (S2 Scholars) Program of the Dyson School promotes and facilitates student-driven innovation activities through a unique two-year program. The program pairs S2 Scholars with targeted internship opportunities and / or entrepreneurial mentorship, organize tailored coursework and workshops, as well as one-on-one faculty mentorship. Through these activities, the program aims to facilitate undergraduate engagement with societal problems, and provide support and seed funding for promising actionable innovations.

Eligibility and Selection:

1. All Dyson School Sophomores and Juniors (majors, double majors and Dyson minors), with preference given to Sophomore applicants and to students supported by financial aid.
2. All applicants are required to identify a societal problem related to one of the four broad areas of the Dyson School,[[1]](#footnote-1) articulate a vision and / or the need for innovation, and describe the applicant’s own rationale (including relevant prior experiences) for engaging with the proposed problem.
3. All applicants are required to provide a short list of organizations (including for-profits, non-profits, governmental, local and international organizations) wherein a summer internship can provide opportunities for fact finding and community engagement related to the proposed problem.
4. Up to four S2 scholars will be chosen each year based on the quality of the applicant’s proposed program of exploration, and the potential real world impact of the proposal.

Benefits:

Societal Solutions Scholars (S2 Scholars):

* Work with Dyson School staff and faculty members to secure internship / mentorship opportunities corresponding to the stated objective of the S2 scholar.
* Receive up to $5,000 summer fellowship to pursue the proposed program of exploration.
* Participate in pre- and post-internship short courses (e.g. ALS 3200, 3210, or similar ones tailored for S2 Scholars) to hone in program management and problem solving skills.
* Work one-on-one with Dyson faculty members to create and design a program of study to cultivate additional skills. S2 Scholars also have the option to write follow-on funding proposals to seed additional junior and senior year activities, and / or actionable innovation ideas.
* Successful proposals can receive up to $15,000 of additional funding.

Applications are due February 15, 2018. Please send completed application to Nancy Chau hyc3@cornell.edu. Please direct any questions about the program to Professor Nancy Chau.

1. Societal Solutions Scholars Program

Program Description

Internship Program:

S2 Scholars participate in an internship experience the summer months of their sophomore year or junior year. The S2 Scholar program pairs S2 Scholars with targeted internship or entrepreneurial mentorship related to the stated area of interest of the S2 Scholar. S2 program staff and Dyson faculty will work with S2 Scholars to identify and secure matching internship opportunities. Depending on the societal problem identified by the student, these organizations can be for-profit, non-profit, governmental, or international organizations.

Pre- and Post- Internship Activities:

All S2 Scholars are encouraged to participate in pre- and post-internship short courses (e.g. ALS 3200, 3210, or similar ones tailored for S2 Scholars). These courses are designed to train students to hone in program management and problem solving skills. The pre-internship course seeks to assist students to develop the personal, professional and academic skill necessary for effective immersion while in a host community. This post-internship course provides a space for S2 Scholars to reflect on their experience, analyze and communicate their learning, through additional research and writing activities.

Faculty Mentorship and Follow-on Funding:

To seed actionable innovation ideas by S2 Scholars in their junior and senior years, the S2 Program encourages S2 Scholars to write proposals for additional funding. S2 Scholars who declare interest in requesting additional funding to seed the implementation of innovation ideas will be paired with a Dyson faculty in the Fall term of the year following the internship experience. The S2 Scholar will work with the faculty mentor to develop a proposal for further on funding. The S2 program provides up to $15,000 to each qualified proposal for use during the scholar’s junior year, junior summer, and senior year.



2018 Societal Solutions Scholars Program Application Form

Part A

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| Applicant Information |
| Name: | Netid: |
| Major: | Minor (if applicable): | Exp. Year of Graduation: |
| If Dyson Major, intended area(s) of concentration: |
| Current GPA: | Faculty Advisor: |
| Prior Internship / Work Experience |
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|  |
|  |
|  |
| Other Related Experience |
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|  |
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|  |
| Signature of applicant: | Date: |

Part B

Please prepare a two-page response to the following questions.

1. Please describe a societal problem in one of the four broad areas of the Dyson School (Food and Agricultural Economics, Management, Environmental and Resource Economics, and International and Development Economics) that you are passionate about, and why.
2. Please list the government organization(s), business(es), non-profit(s), individual innovator(s)/entrepreneur(s), or other groups most engaged with the problem you state. How do you plan to engage with these stakeholders and how do you think your engagement with these organizations / individuals can help with the design an eventual implementation of a solution to the problem you describe?
3. Please describe experiences, skills and other abilities that you possess that will facilitate your ability to analyze the problem you describe, and engage with the external stakeholders.

Name of Applicant:

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| --- |
| Please insert your two-page response to the three questions here |

Name of Applicant:

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| --- |
| Please insert your two-page response to the three questions here |

1. **Food and Agricultural Economics, Management, Environmental and Resource Economics, International and Development Economics.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)