FSF 2026 – Applicant FAQs

My academic institution has a different calendar, and the program dates don't fully match my availability. Can I apply?
You should apply anyway. Depending on the position(s), there could be some flexibility with the program dates, and you could start earlier/later and finish earlier/later. We will consider your application if you can commit to a 10-11 week program.

How does the selection process work?
First, there is an administrative review to ensure that you meet all the program criteria and that all the documents have been submitted (e.g., references, etc.). After that, your application is forwarded to the people responsible for the positions in which you denoted an interest for review. They might decide to conduct virtual interviews with their top-ranked students. Ultimately, the selection is through a matching process (similar to the internship and residency programs) where we match the student's top-ranked position with the mentor's top-ranked student.

How many years can I participate in the program?
One student can participate in the FSF program up to 2 times. If you are an FSF alumni, we definitively welcome you to re-apply. However, we limit the time you can participate to 2 to allow other students to benefit from the program.

Are all positions conducting interviews?
No. That is up to the mentors. Some might decide that your application materials are sufficient for them to rank students. Thus, even if you do not receive an invitation for the position you are most interested in, that does not mean you are not being considered for that position. It might just be that the position is not conducting interviews.

Would I receive several invitations to interview?
It depends. It is up to the mentors of each position to decide whether or not they conduct interviews. However, you may receive multiple invitations to interview if you expressed interest in various FSF positions offered this summer. It is important to note that there is no overall interview for the program, but rather interviews for the different positions – this would also allow you to gain more experience interviewing when you are job hunting.

Are positions that are hybrid/work-from-home?
The general expectation is that participants will be based in East Lansing/Michigan during the summer, not only for the work of the FSF positions but also for participation in additional professional development activities. Depending on the FSF position, there could be opportunities for some hybrid/work-from-home as part of the summer experience. However, generally, the FSF positions are not suitable for total out-of-state work.

Is housing provided?
No, housing in East Lansing is not provided as a program benefit. However, once selected and accepted, we will facilitate your finding housing for the summer by providing you with information about the area and connecting you with MSU students who might be sub-letting their accommodations during the summer. With East Lansing being a college town, there are usually several short-term housing opportunities for the summer months.

Is travel to East Lansing, MI, paid by the program?
The allocation for travel to/from East Lansing is included in the $7,500 stipend that participants will receive for the summer. There won't be a separate reimbursement for expenses incurred.