



## NSF S-STEM HEAT Scholarship Program | Personal Statement



### Guidelines for Writing a Personal Statement\*

Scholarships can be highly competitive, and a personal statement is an opportunity to distinguish yourself from other applicants. In a personal statement for HEAT, applicants should discuss how they 1) are qualified, 2) are highly motivated, 3) will benefit from the HEAT experience personally and professionally, and 4) will bring a unique value and perspective to the HEAT program.

### Personal Statement Details

**Write a One Page (No more than 500 words) Personal Statement. Be sure to include a discussion of the following:**

- 1) Your STEM interest and the importance of STEM to you,
  - 2) Your academic and career goal(s) and how the HEAT experience will help you achieve them,
  - 3) Your relevant STEM coursework,
  - 4) Your research experience (if any),
  - 5) How you will bring a unique value and perspective to the HEAT program, and
  - 6) How you would benefit from receiving HEAT scholarship and pursuing a STEM major.
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**EXAMPLE | STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR INTERNSHIP**



# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR INTERNSHIP

Being born into an era rife with technology, I have come to realize that it is an integral part of the present and the future. Since I was young, I have been taking apart electronics, trying to see how they worked, and eventually creating my own. With the availability of motherboards and programmable AIs, I have been able to endow my creations with motion and the ability to carry out commands. My experiences working and studying in the engineering field have contributed greatly to my continued interest in robotics, and I hope that this statement of purpose for internship sample will demonstrate my qualifications for an internship in the field.

As an amateur robotic engineer, I have taught myself many aspects of programming and construction, entering into multiple competitions. Perhaps my most memorable one was in 2013, where my friends and I teamed together to undertake a project that involved entering the realm of chemistry and biology – something that none of us were familiar with. Through research and consulting others in the field, we were able to create a robot that could identify several types of recyclable items, collecting and breaking them down as it traveled. This experience demonstrated to me the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration, as well as the need to create things that would solve worldwide issues.

This internship would be an excellent opportunity for me to continue to hone my skills in the field of robotics, receiving formal training in many of the concepts and programming techniques necessary for work in the industry. I look forward to working on projects with relevance to human society and marketing need, which will give me sought-after skills that will enable me to enhance my career. As an aspiring future roboticist, this internship will give me the opportunity to network with others in the field and generate new innovation in the field.

## EXTRA RESOURCES

<https://www.onlineengineeringprograms.com/features/how-to-write-an-engineering-school-personal-statement>

<https://www.scholarships.umd.edu/advicestudentwriting.html>

<https://www.petersons.com/blog/personal-statement-vs-statement-of-purpose-whats-the-difference-is-there-one/>

<https://www.dayjob.com/engineering-personal-statement-778/>

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/scholarship-essay-examples>

**\*Adapted from Hostos LSAMP Research Interest Statement guidelines (Prof. Yoel Rodríguez, Prof. Francisco Fernández, and Luis Tejeda Ortiz, A.S. in Chemical Engineering) by HEAT Team.**

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