

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience— International Program (SURE-IPro) 2026

What is SURE-IPro?

It is a short-term summer research program for undergraduate, bachelor's-level students in their final year of a three-year bachelor's degree program or in their final two years of a four- or five-year bachelor's degree program in an engineering/technology/science field.

What is the duration of the program?

Students have a choice of choosing the six-week or the eight-week program.
For summer 2026, the start date is June 1, 2026.

Six-Week Program Options:

Monday, January 5–Friday, February 13, 2026

Students may arrive no earlier than Saturday, January 3 to settle in and may leave on Friday, February 13, or Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Monday, June 1–Friday, July 10, 2026

Students may arrive no earlier than the June 30 to settle in and may leave on Friday, July 10 or Saturday, July 11, 2026.

OR

Eight-Week Program: Monday, June 1–Friday, July 24, 2026

Students may arrive no earlier than Saturday, May 30 to settle in and may leave on Friday, July 24, or Saturday, July 25, 2026.

What is the cost of the program?

Six-week program:	\$6,114
▸ Program fee:	\$1,500
▸ Room/meals (150 meal plan, i.e. 150 meals):	\$4,614
Eight-week program:	\$6,900
▸ Program fee:	\$1,500
▸ Room/meals (150 meal plan, i.e. 150 meals):	\$5,400

If there are 10 or more students per school, each student will receive a discount off their room cost of \$250, thereby reducing the cost per student to:

- \$5,864 for the six-week program

OR

- \$6,650 for the eight-week program

Research themes:

- Artificial Intelligence-Cybersecurity/Data Science
- Sustainability (Water, Recycling, etc.)
- Health, Health Tech, and Wellness
- Autonomous Systems and Robotics

What are the application requirements?

- Students must be **preselected by their home institution**
- Names and email addresses must be sent to Illinois Tech's senior director of international partnerships so that they may be informed about the application process
- **Minimum grade-point average required:** 3.0 on of a 4.0 scale
- **English proficiency requirement:**
 - Valid (two-year validity from the exam date) TOEFL iBT score of 80 overall and 20 in each of the four sections
 - Valid (two-year validity from the exam date) IELTS (not home edition) 6.5 overall and 6.0 in each of the four bands
 - OR a certified letter from a professor of English at the home institution indicating that the student has an intermediate level in English
- Proof of funds available to meet the cost

Is there an application form?

Yes. It is important that students choose in order of priority the four research themes listed on the form and referenced above.

Accompanying documents: Transcripts certified in the native language and in English where applicable, proof of an intermediate level in English, a short essay illustrating research interest, and proof of funds will be part of the application dossier.

If a student qualifies for admission, a virtual meeting with the research professors and the students will be scheduled to determine the appropriate research match per student at least a month prior to arrival.

What is the application deadline?

March 31 (early applications are highly recommended).

What type of visa is required?

J-1 non-degree visiting student.

Will a student be required to register and pay for academic credits at Illinois Tech?

Students do not need to register for any academic credit at Illinois Tech. This will save them a considerable sum of money. Their home institution may award them the necessary credits for the research completed.

Will students be required to write a report and/or will there be a poster session?

During the final two weeks, students will be required to participate in a poster session. For institutions that may require their students to also submit a written report, this may be communicated by the home institution to the student and to Illinois Tech.

Will participating students receive a certificate of completion?

Yes, students will receive a certificate of completion.

How will the research be conducted?

In person.

Will a student be required to stay in one of Illinois Tech's residence halls?

No. Students may live off campus, in which case they will be entirely responsible for their accommodation and meals. Students living with family/friends must send us a letter signed by the student and the person hosting the student confirming that the student will be responsible for his/her meals and personal/other expenses. Transportation to and from the campus will be the student's responsibility.

ALL students, however, **MUST** pay the program fee of \$1,500.

Does a student need health insurance coverage?

Yes. Students will be responsible for their own health insurance, which should include coverage in accordance with the J-1 visa guidelines listed below.

ALL J-1 students/scholars must show verification of the following:

- \$100,000 per accident or illness, with a deductible of no more than \$500
- Repatriation of remains, in the event of death, in the amount of \$25,000
- Expenses associated with medical evacuation to your home country or to your country of permanent residence in the amount of \$50,000

How will the student be billed?

The university or the student may be invoiced directly. If the university wishes to be invoiced directly, Illinois Tech will need the following details: contact name, email, phone number, and mailing address for sending the invoice. This information will be indicated on the agreement between Illinois Tech and the institution participating in the program.

SURE-IPro 2024 video The following video includes representatives from each of the three universities that participated in the program in summer 2024: Universidad Tecnológica de Panama; Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, India; and National Institute of Technology, Trichy, India. Check out this video of their experience: » youtu.be/AAABulGYNs4