

Evaluation Rubric: TSI Summer Undergraduate Research Awards 2023

	Below Bar	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Statement	Lacks clarity or contains irrelevant information	Lacks specificity/vague. E.g. does not explicitly mention TSI or its faculty by name. Motivation for applying is vague (e.g. “to expand research experience”, “to learn more about topic X”, “contribute to work in field Y”). Does not address why the applicant wants to expand research experience, learn more, etc.	Clearly written and specific to the program/project. Mentions potential advisors by name and articulates interest in their work.	Clearly and specifically addresses motivation for applying. E.g application as a stepping stone to longer term career goals (graduate school, job in the private sector) that would benefit from acquired experience. Clearly written and specific to the program/project. Mentions potential advisors by name and articulates interest in their work.	Detailed vision of the outcome; e.g. what skills you hope to acquire and how they will help you with your goals. Clearly articulates not only what you hope to gain from the experience but also what you can contribute to the program, what you bring to the table.
CV	Unorganized or unclear	Significant omissions of information (e.g. no professional experience), but otherwise clear and well put together.	Organized and containing all necessary information. Experience beyond the classroom is very limited Note: significant out-of-classroom experience is not expected for students in their 1st or 2nd year.	Organized and containing all relevant information. Clear track record of achievement inside and outside the classroom. Experience outside the classroom is limited or does not clearly show independence/leadership.	Clear track record of achievement in academic and other projects, especially in leadership positions.
Transcript	Poor performance in courses (C’s or lower) with no explanation.	Grades generally good (As and Bs with some exceptions). Pattern or withdrawing or re-taking courses	Good grades (As and Bs) Adequate math and science background	Strong performance in math/science courses (mostly As with some exceptions). Has taken upper-division in math and science and/or demonstrates breadth of knowledge (e.g. minor in another field)	Excellent performance in coursework (straight As). Pattern of taking advances and/or co-curricular courses

Note: program year is accounted for when examining transcripts, CVs, and research statements so as to not penalize more junior students.