



Thank you for considering GSTEM! We hope our FAQs listed here will answer any questions you may have about the summer 2021 program. Did we forget something? Send us an email at [gstem@courant.nyu.edu](mailto:gstem@courant.nyu.edu).

(For returning visitors, we have made an update to the housing question down below.)

### **What will be different in 2021?**

Honestly, quite a bit. But we're excited! Campus and lab restrictions will likely still be in place during the summer. This will make it nearly impossible for us to offer students a full-time research project as we normally would. Instead we are going to restructure the program. Half the program will be a class in data science. The other half of the program will be research projects. We will integrate both components to make a cohesive summer.

### **Why a course in data science and not another STEM field?**

Because data science is evolving quickly and being a data scientist is a very marketable skillset. The ability to gather, process, analyze, and visualize data will give students an incredible advantage as they move forward with their STEM studies and STEM careers.

And because data science can be applied to any STEM field. Students interested in chemistry, biology, neuroscience, environmental science, mathematics, engineering, computer science, etc. can all benefit from this class.

### **What will the format be?**

Hypothetically speaking, let's say that the data science class will be held on Mondays/Wednesdays and students will work on their research projects on Tuesdays/Thursdays. Fridays will remain our GSTEM community day with lots of fun stuff.

### **Will we be meeting in person?**

We hope so! Our plan is for the data science class to take place on campus. It's likely that we will split the class so half of the students will attend in person on Mondays and the other half will attend in person on Wednesday. If a student is not on campus for class, they will live-stream it from home. This will help us minimize the number of participants on campus each week so we can better follow Covid-19 safety protocols.

### **Will research projects happen in person?**

Again, we hope so but we don't know just yet. We are doing our best to make these arrangements. There is a chance that labs will be accessible over the summer but students should be open to the possibility that research projects will be done remotely.

**What if I am uncomfortable coming to campus for Covid-19 safety reasons?**

We understand this completely. Attending class and/or research projects in person will not be mandatory. Class can be attended via live-stream and we can pair you with a research project that can be done remotely.

**If all or part of the program takes place in person, will GSTEM cover my commuting costs?**

Yes, we will provide students with MetroCards which can be used on the busses and subways within New York City. Though some students may also take the Long Island Rail Road, MetroNorth, or New Jersey Transit, we are unable to cover those costs. We suggest students contact each agency directly to see if student discounts are available.

**Speaking of those research projects, who are the mentors?**

Our mentors are professors and scientists across the STEM fields. They are also across New York City. Many are here at NYU but we have others at different schools and universities such as Columbia University, Lehman College, City College, Brooklyn College, and Hunter College.

**Can I choose my mentor or research project?**

No, you cannot. NYU is a research institution and we follow that model by highlighting STEM as a broad field. We ask that each student attend the program with an open mind and the willingness to learn something brand new.

**How do I get matched with a mentor?**

Matching works in both directions. We survey the mentors to see what high school courses a student should have completed to be best matched with the research. Some mentors say none while others may have a few requests. On the flip side, we will ask you what courses you have completed and if there are any fields in STEM that interest you more than others. We do our best to pair you with one of your choices but we do not make guarantees. Ultimately all pairing is based on the final pool of students, mentors, and projects available. To date, we have always matched students successfully.

**Is GSTEM a graded program?**

Yes. Once completed, you will receive an NYU transcript with your grade. Most alumnae use the transcript to enhance their college applications.

**Before you mentioned some fun stuff. What kind of fun stuff?**

In the past we gather every Friday to check in with one another, see how research projects are going, hear from guest speakers, and take fun field trips to local STEM institutions. We will continue to have our Friday fun day this summer. Whether events are in-person, remote, or a combination will be determined by NYU's campus guidelines. Don't worry, you will still meet all the incredible students in the program and have fun both in and out of class. We'll make it work!

**How much does the program cost?**

For summer 2021 our tuition rate is \$3,250. There are no additional fees for the program.

**Is financial assistance available?**

Absolutely! Students may apply for GSTEM need-based financial support and are encouraged to do so if necessary. You can indicate this on the application form. More information will then follow via email.

**Are there any scholarships available?**

Yes! Currently, we receive generous funding from the Winston Foundation. Students interested in the Winston Data Science Scholarship may apply through the application. A separate essay on your interest in data science will be required. Students who receive the scholarship will complete an additional data analysis component to their summer research.

**Will housing be offered?**

We hope so, but we don't know just yet. We are waiting on an announcement from NYU. If you are interested in living in NYU housing this summer you can indicate this on the application. Students that are accepted into the program will be provided with the necessary next steps. The cost for housing is \$3,372 which covers 6 weeks in an NYU dorm and a weekly meal plan.

**How large is the program?**

We accept 40 students each year.

**Can only current juniors apply?**

Not necessarily. Current juniors are given admission priority. We will still consider exceptional sophomores if there is space available.