

Amgen Scholars | www.amgenscholars.com

- Tiffany Wang (Biopsychology, Economics, 2015)
- Research Assistant
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?

I am at UCLA working in Dr. Aldons J. Lusis's lab in the Department of Genetics and studying the role of FMO3, a hepatic enzyme, in atherosclerosis. I am examining the gene expression of FMO3-KO in mice, as well as the gene expression of trimethylamine-oxide treatment on human aortic endothelial cells.

How did you find your internship?

Through a combination of last year's Tufts internship profiles and Google! The biggest research programs around the country are usually REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) or Amgen programs.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?

Besides the fact that they provide room and board, travel costs, a stipend, and a food allowance, they also offer weekly seminars with helpful information about graduate school. They really want to make sure the scholars understand what it means to be on track for a PhD.

What do you find challenging?

The biggest challenge is working in a department in which I have little background knowledge and experience. My previous lab experience was in behavioral neuroscience, so suddenly doing a lot of bench work was difficult because I did not know many of the techniques.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?

STAY ON TOP OF DEADLINES!! The deadlines for science-based research programs vary greatly, with the earliest around February 1st for programs like Amgen. Get started early so you can ask teachers for recommendations BEFORE winter break. Since I applied early, I heard back early too.

About the Organization

Amgen Scholars
Los Angeles, CA

The Amgen Foundation seeks to advance science education; improve patient access to quality care; and strengthen the communities where Amgen staff members live and work. Since 1991, the Foundation has made nearly \$180 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the United States, Puerto Rico and Europe that impact society in inspiring and innovative ways, and has also supported disaster relief efforts both domestically and internationally.