



# BIOINFORMATICS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

by the Education & Internship Committee of the ISCB Student Council

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We are currently seeking more host labs!

Internships are a great way to supplement formal education by providing students with hands-on experience at workplace. While internships are commonplace in the developed world, **there are fewer opportunities for students from developing nations**. To offer more opportunities, the Education and Internship Committee (EIC) of the ISCB Student Council (SC) initiated **the Internship Program**. The main objective of the program is to improve the accessibility to high quality research for students from developing regions around the world.

Since its establishment in 2009, the program has organized **eight internships** in Europe and Australia supporting students from Brazil (3), Kenya (1), India (3), and Estonia (1). The Internship Program plays a key role in **bridging the gap in computational biology research** between the developing and developed countries. It minimizes the effort and time commitment from a Principal Investigator (PI) to **recruit the most qualified interns** by streamlining the entire pre-internship process.

## Get Involved

### Principal Investigators

PIs interested in hosting students can contact the EIC, via email, expressing their interest. The EIC will then provide the information to the interested PI, that includes program details program details and a questionnaire, seeking information, from interested PI(s), on potential offer in order to put forward a call for applications.

### Students

Students can apply for an internship position via the program's submission system. Although requirements vary for each call, a *curriculum vitae* (CV), a proof of enrolment in a college/university, and a statement of purpose are often required as part of the application.

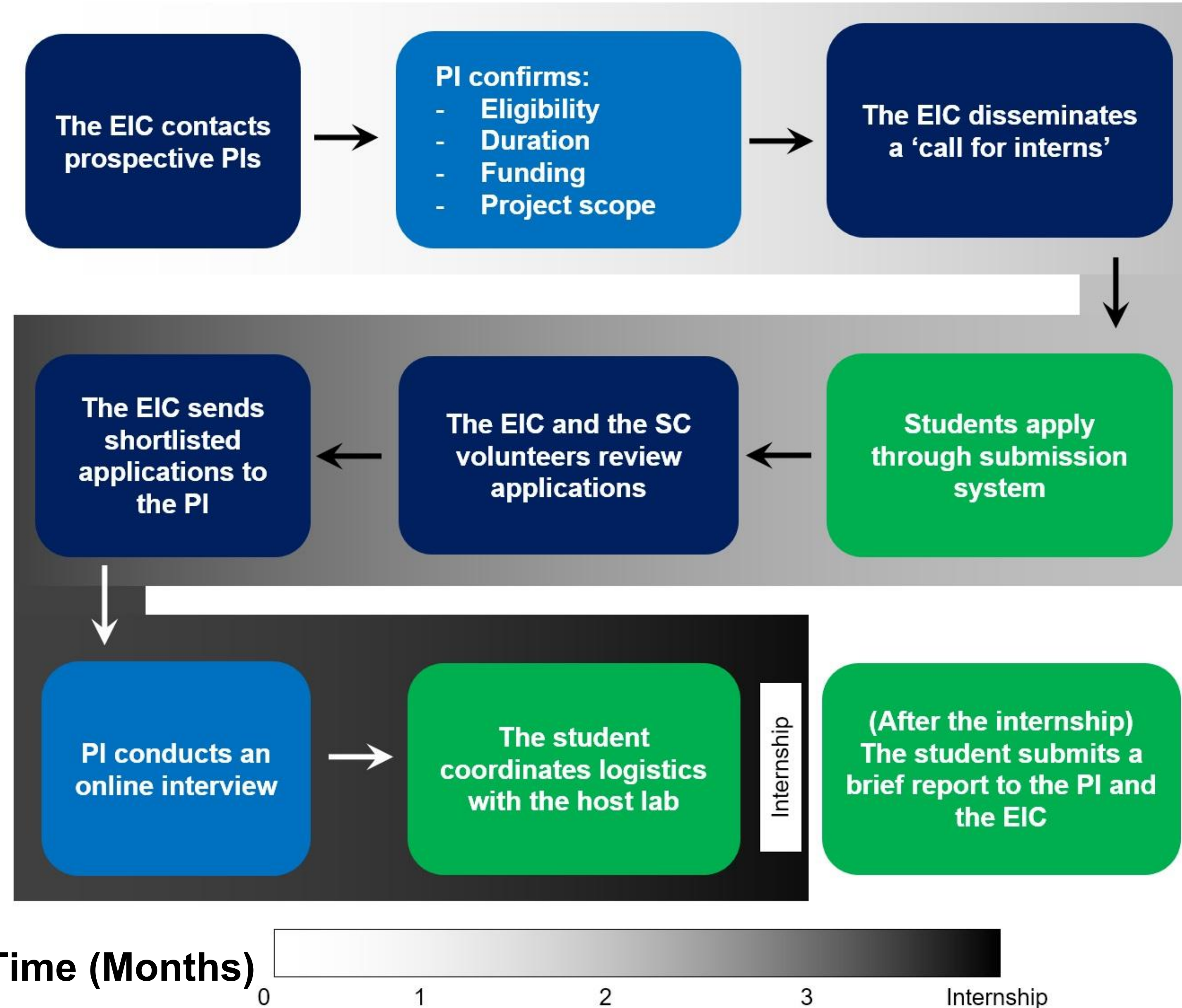


Figure from "The ISCB Student Council Internship Program: Expanding computational biology capacity worldwide". PLOS Computational Biology 2017. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005802

## Anna Tramontano Fellowship

A fund has recently been started to help offset some of the financial burden of hosting an intern. These funds are available to cover travel and visa fees for the participating student. The fellowships is named in honor of the late Anna Tramontano, a renowned bioinformatician and leader of the ISCB.

More information at <https://www.iscb.org/tramontano-fellowship-fund>

## Testimonials

"I was delighted to take part in the ISCB-SC internships programme to help give a hand up to excellent students from around the world." – Alex Bateman, European Bioinformatics Institute, United Kingdom

"I had a very enlightening experience and exposure to various modern and new approaches on bioinformatics and research. This is not only effective but leads to establishing contacts for the future." – Dedan Githae, ILRI, Kenya

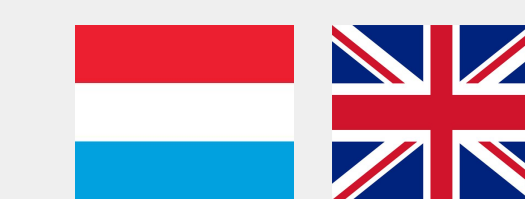
"The Internship Program widens the further career opportunities of the students. The students who joined our group through this Internship Program were very active and eager to learn new things" – Reinhard Schneider, University of Luxembourg

"The amazing five months are now over, but I am sure that they will keep influencing my life for many years to come. What is definitely sure is that this internship has changed me a lot. It has encouraged me to more eagerly look for opportunities and pursue my research interests." – Kaur Alasoo, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, United Kingdom

## Previous Participants (Countries)

Developing Nations	Internship Location
3 interns	
3 interns	
1 intern	
1 intern	

Scheduled for 2018!



## Acknowledgments

We are extremely thankful to the SC members who contributed in developing the Internship Program: Abhishek Pratap, Aishwarya Alex, Chinmay Kumar Dwivedi, Geoff Macintyre, Jeroen de Ridder, Lorena Pantano, Maina Bitar, Noura Chelbat, Prashanth Suravajhala, Priscila Grynberg, Saras Saraswathi, Surya Saha, Teresa Szczepińska, Thomas Abeel, and Tomas Di Domenico. We would like to especially acknowledge Venkata Satagopam who established the Internship Program in 2009. We are also indebted to the host PIs whose support helped to maintain continuity of the program, and we are very thankful to the past interns who helped shape its remarkable success.

## Get in touch

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