

EMORY SIBS: FAQ

What is SIBS? Is it a course or an internship?

SIBS is a four-week long training program in biostatistics for undergraduates and beginning graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents. The program is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Each week, Emory SIBS students participate in numerous activities, including biostatistical methods coursework, seminars and presentations by leading scientists and researchers at Emory and other Atlanta-area institutions, educational field trips, and group social activities. The program is designed to provide students with training in the statistical analysis of public health and medical data, and to motivate interest in biostatistics in particular, and public health in general, as possible graduate school and career options.

Who is eligible for SIBS?

Undergraduate students and *beginning* graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply for the SIBS program. Students who have graduated from college but have not started graduate school are also eligible. Anyone who is not a US citizen and is not a permanent resident of the US is not eligible for the program. If you have questions about eligibility or about whether the program is suitable for you - please email Ms. Mary Abosi at mabosi@emory.edu.

I am already in graduate school. Am I eligible for SIBS?

Please see "Who is eligible for SIBS" above. Typically, SIBS applicants are rising sophomores, juniors or seniors in college. Sometimes, students who have graduated from college and are exploring and preparing for graduate school also apply.

I have completed graduate school; although I am not a biostatistician, I need to learn about biostatistics for my profession. Am I eligible for SIBS?

Please see "Who is eligible for SIBS" above. Students who have already completed graduate school typically are not eligible for SIBS.

What is the application deadline? When will a decision be made about my application?

All applications should be completed before the last day of March. Completed applications are reviewed and admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, so spots may fill up prior to the deadline. Students are notified as soon as a decision is made on their file.

What will the SIBS biostatistical methods coursework cover?

The course covers introductory applied biostatistical methods, beginning with study design and exploratory data analyses and ending with linear and logistic regression analyses. Advanced topics such as infectious disease modeling and spatial statistics may also be introduced, time permitting. Students attend lectures in the mornings, and labs in the afternoon. In labs, students will learn to use statistical software (SAS, R and JMP) to implement methods learned in lectures.

How many credits is the SIBS course? Will the credit hours transfer to my institution?

Emory University will award 2 credit hours to students who successfully complete the program. It is the student's responsibility to check with his or her own academic institution regarding the possibility of transferring credit earned in SIBS and the requirements for doing so. We strongly recommend that students do this prior to accepting our offer. Emory University and the Emory SIBS program cannot guarantee the transferability of credit.

Is SIBS an REU?

SIBS is not an REU. The 'Research Experience for Undergraduates' (REU) program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. SIBS is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Please visit www.nsf.gov for more information on REU programs.

What will a typical weekday in the SIBS program consist of?

Students will attend morning lectures and afternoon lab sessions each day Monday to Friday, and will have homework to do most weekday evenings (students often complete the homework during afternoon lab sessions). Occasionally, "meet the faculty" sessions and seminars will take the place of a morning lecture or afternoon lab. On Wednesday evenings, panel sessions with alumni, faculty, admissions office and career office staff will be held, with dinner provided.

During weekdays, you will have breakfasts, lunches and most dinners on campus.

Weekends are your own, although we do encourage students to participate in any organized weekend group dinners and social outings.

Do I have to participate in all SIBS activities?

Students must participate in all weekday activities held between 9am and 5pm. Attendance at evening seminars, dinners and social activities organized by the program is strongly encouraged, but optional.

Can I hold a full- or part-time job and still participate in SIBS?

Successful completion of the SIBS program requires students to participate in all weekday SIBS activities held between 9am and 5pm, for all weeks of the program. Because of this requirement, it is usually not possible for students to participate in SIBS and to also hold a full- or part-time job, especially if it is a daytime job.

What does the SIBS program pay for, and what will I have to pay?

The program pays for university tuition related to SIBS coursework, and for university-provided on-campus housing. SIBS also pays for most, but not all, student meals, as follows:

(1) Weekday breakfasts and lunches, and Monday – Thursday dinners are provided by SIBS.

(2) Friday dinners and all weekend meals are the student's responsibility; students should make sure they have their own funds available for these meals.

Students will need to pay for travel to and from Atlanta (see, "Will SIBS pay my travel costs?", below), will need to provide miscellaneous supplies for their room (see "Is the campus housing furnished? If not, what do I need to bring?" below), and should also budget for discretionary items (between-meal snacks, eating out, movies, visiting Atlanta attractions and other entertainment, etc.)

Will I receive a stipend while participating in SIBS?

SIBS pays for tuition, housing and some meals, and program-sponsored educational activities (limited travel support may also be available); it does not pay for anything else, and no stipends are provided.

Where do students live while participating in SIBS?

Most students live in on-campus housing that is provided at Emory's Clairmont Campus (<http://www.emory.edu/HOUSING/CLAIRMONT/cc.html>) and that is paid for by the SIBS program. Occasionally, students choose to live in their own off-campus housing, at their own cost.

If I arrange for my own housing, will SIBS pay the cost?

The SIBS program pays for University-provided housing. Students who elect not to stay in the available University housing will not receive any reimbursement for housing expenses.

Is the University-provided housing furnished? If not, what do I need to bring?

Students will have a private bedroom in a two- or four-bedroom furnished suite on Emory's Clairmont Campus (<http://www.emory.edu/HOUSING/CLAIRMONT/cctodo.html>). Each suite includes a kitchen and bathroom. Students in past SIBS programs have found the accommodations to be excellent.

Except for the furniture, nothing else is provided in the suites. Cleaning services are not provided; neither are bedroom linens, bathroom supplies or kitchen supplies. Students need to budget for and provide their own supplies, including: bed linens (for full-sized beds), pillows, blankets, towels, alarm clocks; bathroom supplies including toiletries (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.) and bath tissue; kitchen supplies (plates, bowls, cups, glasses, silverware, detergent, paper towels, trash bags, etc.) and cleaning supplies. The SIBS program will provide students with a small starter kit that includes some essentials such as bath tissue, paper towels, trash bags, disposable plates and forks and spoons, and hand sanitizer. Beyond that, students are responsible for their own supplies. Grocery stores, pharmacies and discount stores are located near the Emory campus; the program will assist students in organizing shopping trips as necessary.

Will SIBS pay for my travel costs?

Very limited funds are available to assist students with travel costs. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient funds to pay for all students or to pay anyone's travel costs in full. Accepted students who would not be able to participate without travel assistance should contact us before accepting our offer of admission to the program and request assistance.

I have been accepted - what do I do next?

Congratulations! Please notify us of your decision as soon as possible, and no later than the deadline specified in our offer of admission. After accepting our offer, you will receive further information regarding the program. In April, you will be contacted by Emory's Summer Housing Office- they will have some forms for you to fill out. You should make your travel plans as soon as possible, and notify the Emory SIBS program about those plans.

I will arrive in Atlanta before the check-in date. Can I check in early?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate early check-ins.

I need to stay an extra day after the end of the program. Can I do that?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate stays past the end of the program.