

## NEXT Innovation Scholars: Program Requirements + Expectations

NEXT Innovation Scholars is a prestigious program spearheaded by President Neville G. Pinto, demonstrating UC's commitment to innovation on a national stage. Participating students will be positioned at the center of UC's innovation ecosystem and considered "ambassadors of innovation" at the University of Cincinnati; the student face of our [Next Lives Here](#) strategic direction and innovation agenda. As such, expectations for sustained engagement, commitment, and demonstrated leadership are high.

NIS is not just a scholarship; it's a transformational academic program that *includes* scholarships as a benefit. Students in NIS are expected to actively participate in program activities throughout the year, including the summer semester and while on full-time co-op. We'll work hard, but we'll work together as a diverse, inclusive community from a variety of majors and academic years, sharing unique educational experiences that are signature to NIS and will shape your undergraduate career.

### Outline of Mandatory Program Activities:

In general, students accepted to NIS should plan to spend an average of 4-6 hours per week on program-related responsibilities, with some seasonal peaks and valleys. This may include program meetings, working on short-term and long-term projects, mentoring and advising sessions, and representing NIS at events. Newly accepted students will participate in several specific onboarding and training activities as a cohort, designed to foster inclusion through shared experiences, and equip you with the tools, terminology, and mindsets that make NIS a signature innovation program. NIS students that apply to and are selected for the leadership circle should plan on 10-12 hours per week of additional responsibilities during the Fall semester for UIF training (a global, cohort-based program led by Stanford University) and on-campus project launch.

### SUMMER SEMESTER

#### Students in Incoming Cohorts:

- Scholar Storytelling Sessions (*monthly; virtual*)
- Peer mentor meetings (*2 per summer; virtual or in-person*)
- NIS Onboarding Bootcamp (*in-person on campus; typically Wednesday-Friday 1 week prior to Fall classes*)

#### Students in Existing Cohorts:

- Summer Innovation Immersion Trip (*typically takes place the week between Spring/Summer semesters*)
- Book club discussions (*monthly; virtual*)
- Peer mentee meetings (*2 per summer; virtual or in-person*)
- Formal meeting with professional mentor (*virtual or in-person*)
- Single day Onboarding / Training of New Cohort (*in-person on campus; typically Friday before Fall classes*)

## FALL SEMESTER

### **All Students:**

- Attend bi-weekly program meetings (*in-person if on campus; virtual if on co-op or study abroad*)
- Contribute to campus Innovation Advancement Project led by UIF leadership circle (*various small tasks and deliverables throughout the semester*)
- Participate in at least one short-term NIS engagement (*sprint, networking event, consulting project, etc.*)
- Formal meeting with professional mentor (*virtual or in-person*)

### **Students in Incoming Cohorts:**

- Complete PD1050: Innovation Models and Mindsets course (*1 credit hour*)

### **UIF Leadership Circle:**

- Complete all Stanford UIF training modules and deliverables (*7 weeks Aug-Oct*)
- Meet with UIF guide (*weekly during 7-week training*)
- Meet with UIF Faculty Champion (*weekly*)
- Manage and advance year-long campus Innovation Advancement Project benchmarks + deliverables
- Complete Stanford UIF project update for publication and review

## SPRING SEMESTER

### **All Students:**

- Attend bi-weekly program meetings (*in-person if on campus; virtual if on co-op or study abroad*)
- Contribute to campus Innovation Advancement Project led by UIF leadership circle (*various small tasks and deliverables throughout the semester*)
- Participate in at least one short-term NIS engagement (*sprint, networking event, consulting project, etc.*)
- Assist with review and selection of new NIS cohort (*participate in recruitment and/or review events*)
- Formal meeting with professional mentor (*virtual or in-person*)
- Assist with welcome and onboarding of new cohort

### **UIF Leadership Circle:**

- Meet with UIF Faculty Champion (*weekly*)
- Manage and advance year-long campus Innovation Advancement Project benchmarks + deliverables

## Requirements for maintaining program participation and scholarships include:

- Maintaining at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average.
- Maintaining full-time student status in the Fall and Spring semester. *(NOTE: Participating in a full-time co-op is considered full-time student status as long as the student is enrolled in an associated co-op course with UC)*
- Participation in and on-time completion of all required NIS activities outlined in the tables above, with professionalism and excellence.
- Actively participating in optional NIS programming when possible (sprints/community engagements, networking, social events, etc.)
- Timely responses to all program-related communication (email, phone, chat, etc.) from program faculty, staff, and peers.
- Maintaining a high level of professionalism when representing NIS both internally (UC) and with parties outside of the University.
- Contributing to an inclusive, collaborative program environment and community by supporting peers, demonstrating a commitment to NIS priorities, and leading by example.
- Growing and sharing an active awareness of innovation topics, trends, and engagement opportunities with peers and program leadership.

Failure to complete program requirements and/or expectations will result in termination of NIS scholarship awards and discharge from the program.

\*NOTE: It is understood that in some cases, full participation in required NIS events and programming may not be possible due to co-op location, study abroad, medical emergencies, and other extenuating circumstances of major consequence. In these cases, students should proactively work with the NIS Leadership Team in advance to create a plan of action.

