The Student Independent Research Intern (SIRI) program is a training program organized by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to provide students with real-life work experiences as a component of their academic program. The SIRI program is an unpaid internship. It is offered twice a year: Fall Semester and Spring Semester. The Fall Semester lasts from September to January and participating students will enroll in EGR 470 for the Fall Quarter. For the Spring Semester, running from January to June, enrollment will be in the Winter Quarter.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 with a minimum Cal Poly GPA of 3.0 or better, and must be US citizens or Permanent Residents. Both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply. If selected, students must be able to provide 10-15 hours per week to work on specific projects under the supervision of JPL mentors during the semester. Program participation is limited to only one semester. If the participants wish to continue working at JPL after their completion of the program, and their JPL mentors are also interested, it would be under other auspices, such as NASA scholarships or work-study programs.

If you are interested and qualified to apply, please submit the application form (available to download from the above website), your resume, and a copy of your transcripts (official or unofficial) to Dr. Z. Aliyazicioglu by November 4, 2013. Your resume should be one to two pages and include the following information: long-term career goals, near-term academic plans, a list of skills (math, computer science, physical science, writing, etc.), work experience, and a sentence or two about any specific projects that reflect your best efforts to date, such as science projects, web sites, school papers, or publications.

The selection is a two-stage process. Initially, faculty advisors at Cal Poly will screen all applications and select those who meet the requirements and best fit the program goals. After the list of announcements of opportunity, including project titles and further details, are posted, students in this semi-final group will be required to prioritize tasks and submit online resumes to be reviewed by JPL mentors. Please make sure that you can be reached during summer break for possible site or telephone interviews. Notification of final selections will be made in August and students will begin work at JPL on January 27, 2014.

If you have any further questions, please contact me by email at any time.

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