Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ)

1. **Should transcripts be officially released, or are unofficial copies acceptable?**
   Both official and unofficial transcripts are accepted.

2. **I am not currently 15, but will turn 15 this summer. Am I still eligible to participate?**
   Students who will be 15 years of age or older at the start of the internship program may participate in non-wet lab projects only. Students who will be 16 years of age or older at the start of the internship program, or undergraduate students enrolled in accredited two- or four-year colleges or universities, may participate in either wet lab or non-wet lab projects. Students younger than 15 years of age are not eligible to participate in the program.

3. **I have to provide a reference. What does that mean?**
   Applicants must ask a teacher or professor to be their reference. This person should be able to comment on the applicant’s interest and aptitude for science and their potential as an intern. During the application review process, interested Mentors may ask the reference for a letter of recommendation, or to talk to them on the phone.

4. **If accepted into the internship program, is there any flexibility with regard to the start/end date or will I be required to follow a specific schedule?**
   While all accepted applicants will be expected to participate in the internship program for the entire period of 10 weeks, interns may be able to start earlier and/or finish later depending on the availability of their Mentor. Any modifications to the schedule must be worked out with the Intern Mentor prior to starting the program. Please note that while an earlier start date, or a later end date, may be feasible, students must be present during the first orientation week and the final week including the symposium (where students present their projects) to complete their internship.

5. **Is it okay for me to mail or email all my application materials in one packet instead of submitting them online?**
   No. All applications must be completed and submitted online. Hard copies or emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.
6. **The website states that the internship lasts 10 weeks. During that time, are students allowed to take vacation and make up that time by extending the end date of the internship?**
   Students are expected to work in the lab at least 8 hours per day, 5 days per week during the 10-week internship period. Students must be present during orientation and the final symposium to complete their internship. Aside from the orientation and symposium, which are mandatory, any exceptions that are made to this schedule (due to special circumstances) are solely at the discretion of the Intern Mentor, and must be worked out with the Intern Mentor prior to starting the program. Typically, interns are not granted vacation time and this should be kept in mind when applying.

7. **During the selection process, will potential candidates be interviewed in person?**
   This depends on the Intern Mentor but most likely, interviews will be done over the phone.

8. **Does the Canary Center assist students in obtaining US visas or provide housing for students who are not local?**
   No. The Canary Center is not able to assist with obtaining visas or securing housing. As per the eligibility requirements, students must live locally or have the ability to find housing independently, and no stipend or housing assistance is provided with this internship.

9. **How many students usually apply for these positions?**
   In previous years between 250 and 300 students applied and 20-30 interns were accepted into the program.

10. **Is this internship only suitable for students with AP Biology or AP Chemistry experience?**
    There are no prerequisites or course study requirements pertaining to this internship program. All students who are interested in this field are welcome and encouraged to apply.