

IUSSTF-Viterbi Program Application Guidelines Call for 2026 Research Placements

IUSSTF-Viterbi Program

The IUSSTF-Viterbi Program is a full-time summer research placement program established by the **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** and the **USC Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California (USC)**. The program provides a cohort of **15 Indian students** with in-person research placements at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering for a fixed period of **8 weeks**, tentatively scheduled between **mid-May and mid-July**.

I. Eligibility Criteria

Only Indian citizens currently enrolled at a recognized Institution of Higher Education in India are eligible to apply.

Academic Requirements:

- **Grade Point Average (GPA) of 8.5 or higher** (or equivalent of 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale), **OR**
- **Percentage equivalent of 80% and higher.**

Eligible Students:

- Students must be pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree in the specified areas.
 - **Bachelor's Degree:** Must be in the **3rd year** of a four-year program or the **3rd or 4th year** of a five-year program.
 - **Master's Degree:** Must be in the **first year**.
- Candidates must complete their degree program **on or after May 2027**.

Eligible Subject Areas:

- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering
- Computer Sciences
- Computational Sciences

Ineligible Applications:

- Applications in subject areas other than those specified above will not be considered.

II. Support Provided Under the Program

The following will be provided by IUSSTF and USC:

- A **stipend** for the duration of 8 weeks.
- Round-trip **international airfare** (economy class), which will be booked by the IUSSTF travel desk.
- **On-campus housing** for the duration of the program.

III. Costs to be Borne by the Student

- **Visa Fees**, including the **DS-160 application fee** and the **I-901 SEVIS fee**.

IV. Application Process & Required Documents

A. Online Form Submission

The application must be submitted exclusively through the [IUSSTF Online Application Portal](#) for Visitation Programs.

1. **Sign in** through the Online Application Portal.
2. **Verify your account** using the link sent to your registered email id. Please check your spam/junk folders if the emails are not received in your inbox from viterbi-india@iusstf.org.
3. **Login** to the Online Portal with the registered Email Id and save your user ID and password for future reference.
4. Click "**Apply for – Start Application**".
5. **Fill in the required details** in the form. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.
6. Use the **Save** button to preserve entered information. Retrieve the saved information using your login credentials and **submit** the form upon completion. **Note:** You will not be able to change or edit your form after submission.
7. An automatic email will verify receipt of your application. You may download the PDF of your completed application using the link sent to your registered email id. Please note your **Application ID**.
8. **Forgot Password:** Use the 'Forgot Password?' option on the login page to receive a password reset link via email.

B. Required Documents

Candidates must upload scanned copies of the following **three mandatory documents**:

1. **Latest mark sheet/transcript.**
2. **No-Objection Certificate (NOC)**, adhering to the recommended format.
3. **Two Letters of Recommendation (LoR).**

Important Document Instructions:

- Supporting documents should adhere strictly to the checklist in the application form in the prescribed formats.
- All applicants must provide appropriate documentation to support the **top 2-3 most relevant research experiences** claimed in the application. Acceptable documents includes but is not limited to: official **Certifications of Participation, Letters from supervising faculty or institutions** (on official letterhead, detailing your role and duration), **Copies of published papers** (with the applicant's name clearly highlighted), or any other **relevant documents**.
- Do NOT attach Class X/ Class XII mark sheets.
- **Passport:** If you do not have a passport, kindly apply for one and select **'Applied for'** in the application form.
- Any supporting document emailed after the submission deadline will not be considered

C. Recommendation Letter Submission

Two LoRs are required. One of the referees should be your **teacher/tutor**. A reference from your **supervisor** is preferred if you have completed a training/internship.

- The recommendations must be on the **official letterhead** of the referee with their ink signature and stamp.
- If referees are comfortable sharing the letters with you, they can be uploaded with the application form.
- If the referees wish to provide a confidential recommendation, you may select the 'Email Later' option. A submission link will be sent directly to your referee to upload the recommendation letter. ***The letters must be received on or before the deadline.***
- The referee may directly email the recommendation to viterbi-india@iusstf.org with the **candidate's name _department _institute/university** clearly mentioned in the subject line, **within the submission deadline.**