

Stanford CURIS
**Funded CS Research
Opportunities Workshop**

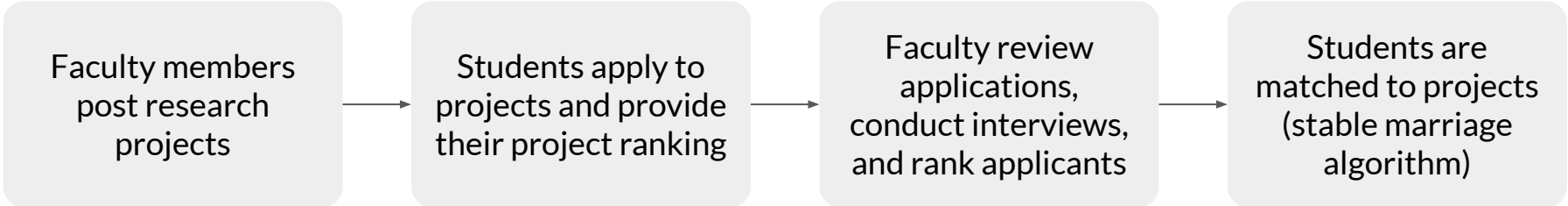
CURIS Fellowship & Paid Undergraduate
Research Experience

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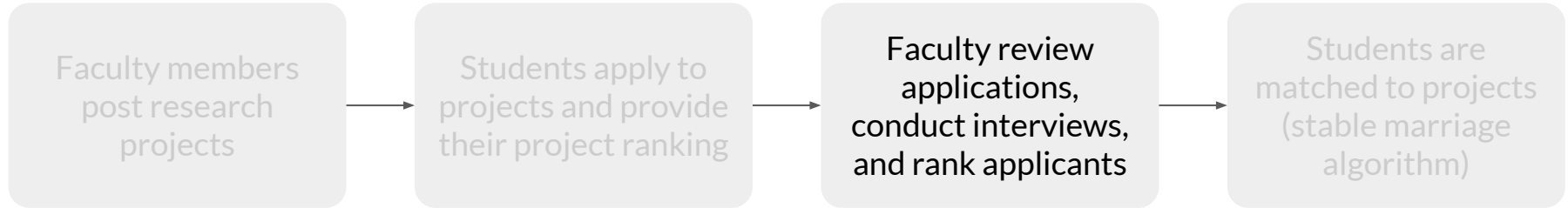
Agenda

- **PROGRAM INFORMATION**
 - CURIS Fellowship program
 - Paid Undergraduate Research Experience program (PURE)
- **APPLICATION TIPS**
 - CURIS Fellowship
 - Personal statement
 - Research essay
 - PURE
 - Reaching out to research advisors
 - Research proposal

CURIS matching process (Winter quarter)



CURIS matching process (Winter quarter)



Since each individual CURIS project has limited headcount, each individual research advisor is incentivized to choose the most-qualified candidate. In aggregate, this individual preference disadvantages students who are earlier in their undergrad career and/or have less prior research experience.

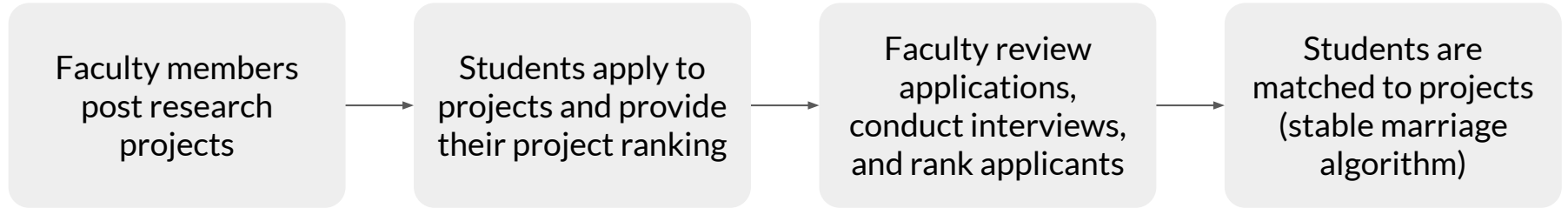
→ This is why CURIS Fellowships were introduced!

What is the CURIS Fellowship?

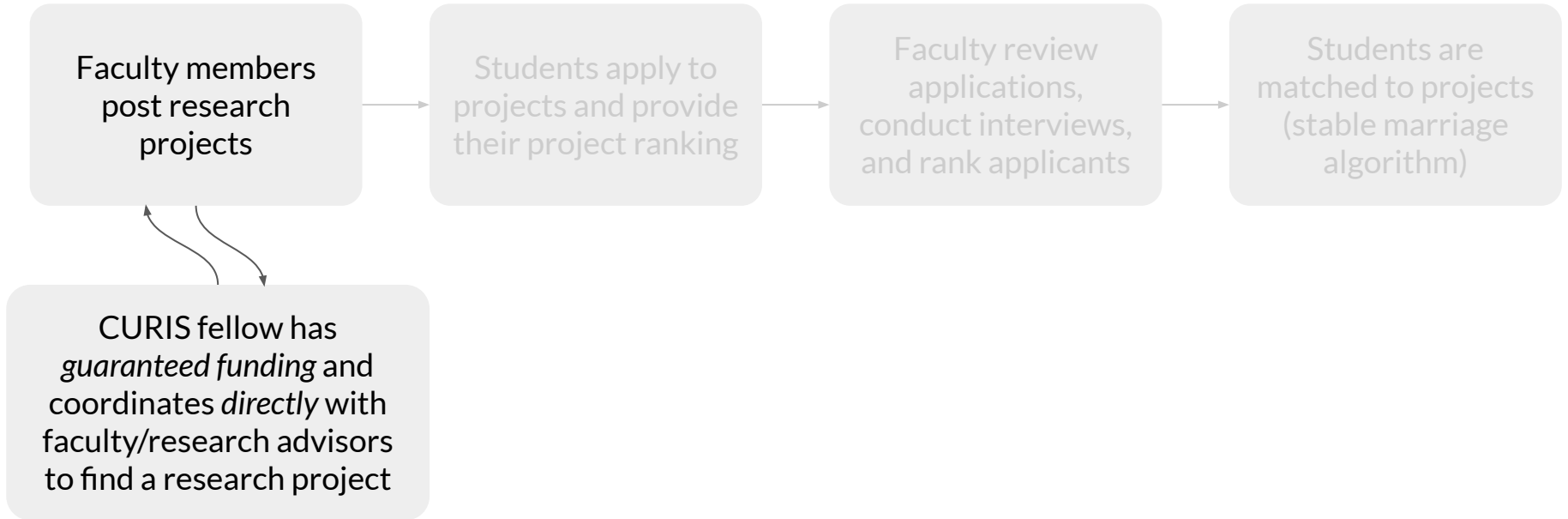
- **TIMING**
 - Summer research (what we traditionally refer to as “CURIS”)
- **GOAL**
 - Support students who **do not have prior CS research experience** and to make research **more accessible to a diverse group of students**
- **BENEFITS**
 - Guaranteed CURIS funding (bypassing the uncertainty of the CURIS matching process); joining a cohort of other promising early-career undergrad researchers
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - Stanford undergraduate; preference for students who don't have prior CS research experience

→ [CURIS Fellowship program info](#)

CURIS matching process...



vs. CURIS Fellow process



What is the Paid Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE)?

- **TIMING**
 - Academic-year research (Fall, Winter, or Spring quarters)
- **GOAL**
 - To help make research **more accessible to FLI students** and to set them up for success by enabling them to be **compensated** for their work
- **BENEFITS**
 - Compensation through Federal Work-Study ([Level 3](#) as defined by [Stanford pay scales](#)) for your work as a research assistant
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - Stanford undergraduate; eligible for Federal Work-Study
 - Note: this program is open to students who are *already* working with a research group (students don't need to be new to research)!

→ [PURE Student Guide](#)

At-a-glance: CURIS fellowship vs. PURE

	Program timing	Eligibility	Program benefits	Application materials	Application deadline	Info page
CURIS fellowship	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergraduate at Stanford• Preference for students who don't have prior CS research experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guaranteed CURIS funding• Joining a cohort of other promising early-career undergrad researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unofficial transcript• 500-word essay on research reading• 200-word personal statement or rec letter	12/15/21	link
PURE	Fall, Winter, or Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergraduate at Stanford• Eligible for Federal Work-Study• May already be working with a research lab!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compensation through Federal Work-Study (Level 3 as defined by Stanford pay scales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500-word research proposal• Name and contact details of research advisors	12/1/21	link

CURIS Fellowship application timeline

- **PREPARE APPLICATION MATERIALS**

- Unofficial transcript
- 500-word essay on research reading
- Statement on your interest and research potential
 - either (a) 200-word personal statement or (b) recommendation letter by lecturer, research scientist, or professor
 - *Note: if you were nominated by a lecturer, research scientist, or professor, you do not need to complete this portion (the nominator has already agreed to proactively provide you a recommendation)*

- **(IF SELECTED) FIND A RESEARCH PROJECT MATCH**

- View CURIS research project postings (Winter Quarter)
- Reach out directly to research advisors to coordinate about joining their projects

Research Essay

- Skim through the “Introduction” articles to get a sense of the research topics
- Select 1 or 2 articles to read in-depth
- Try to summarize the paper (good exercise)
- Try to touch on the problem, the related work, the main contribution, evaluations/experiment, final takeaway (not at an expert level, just try your best)
- Try to write in an accessible way, for your benefit and others

Personal Statement

- The point is to understand why you want to do research!
 - You should aim to convey: (1) your interest, (2) your research potential
- What research do you think is interesting? Why?
- Main takeaway for the reader of your statement should be who you are as a person, your motivations, and goals.

PURE application timeline

- **FIND A PROJECT**
 - Reach out to potential research advisors to find a project
- **PREPARE APPLICATION MATERIALS**
 - Write research proposal
 - Confirm research advisor alignment
- **(UPON ACCEPTANCE) PREPARE FOR THE QUARTER**
 - Set up meetings with faculty advisor and PhD student advisor
 - Set up Week 4 and Week 8 high-level check-ins
 - Schedule final presentation slot in lab meeting
 - Create an action plan for the quarter (ideally directly drawing from your research proposal)

Reaching out to research advisors

- → [List of PURE advisor volunteers](#)
 - These research advisors are excited about the goals of PURE and have indicated that they would like to take on a PURE research assistant in Winter Quarter! They've also indicated that they are open to student reach-outs at their provided email address.
- First, skim the different research areas
- Then, look more into the project descriptions. If anything is confusing, feel free to reach out to the grad students, or do your own research!
- Once you have a good idea, reach out to them! You can mention what you found interesting from their descriptions/work or even what you found confusing, the most important thing is to start the conversation!
- By reaching out, you can discuss and flesh out the project more, which will give you a better sense of what you want to work on and will form the basis of your research proposal

Research Proposal

- Goal of this document: to confirm that the research advisors and the student have agreed to work together and are aligned on a research project for the next quarter
 - We want this document to be useful for *you* as you plan your research project
 - Could be a launching-off point for a future paper or write-up!
 - Can serve as a helpful guide to turn back to throughout the quarter and gauge progress
- Work with the grad student/ professor on this!
- Try to touch on the problem, the related work, the main contribution, evaluations/experiment
- Try to make a 10 week plan for the quarter; a roadmap will be very helpful!

Thank you!

contact: curis-mentors@cs.stanford.edu