



Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE)

Program Description

SPISE is an intensive, 4-week (mid-July to mid-August) residential summer enrichment program offered by the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF) for gifted Caribbean high school students who are interested in studying and exploring careers in STEM-related disciplines. SPISE is modeled after the well-known MITES program at MIT (<http://oeop.mit.edu/programs/mites>). SPISE nurtures and supports the exceptional STEM talent in our youth, and encourages them to stay in the STEM disciplines beyond university and to consider technology-based entrepreneurship as a career option. The goal is to ensure that opportunities for future creation of technology-based jobs in the Region are not lost.



SPISE provides a risk-free learning environment in which students are trained to think critically and to develop analytical and logical problem solving approaches in several disciplines. Rote learning is discouraged, and instead the focus is on teaching students to understand and apply the fundamentals so as to achieve mastery. SPISE students are immersed in rigorous university-level courses in calculus, physics, biochemistry, Caribbean unity, entrepreneurship and Mandarin, as well as hands-on projects in underwater robotics, renewable energy, electronics and computer programming.

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age on July 1st, and must have completed CSEC exams or equivalent in math and science subjects. Students from low-income households and girls are encouraged to apply. All applications are assessed by the SPISE Admissions Committee, composed of reviewers within the Region and Diaspora, who are from academia, industry and the business community. Selection is based not only on grades and CXC scores, but also on letters of recommendation and essays. SPISE is free for most participants thanks to generous donations from corporate, government and individual sponsors.

Benefits of Attending SPISE

- ◆ Build self-confidence in general, and specifically in the STEM disciplines
- ◆ Improve study habits and time management skills
- ◆ Learn how to assimilate the fundamentals, think critically, and develop analytical and logical problem-solving approaches in various disciplines
- ◆ Participate in a hands-on engineering project as part of a team, and learn the value of teamwork
- ◆ Learn the essentials of developing a business plan, and how to pitch it to investors
- ◆ Become better prepared for the pace and pressure of university life
- ◆ Learn about STEM-based career options and receive mentorship from experts in diverse STEM fields
- ◆ Learn how to write a CV that is an effective and compelling representation of you
- ◆ Receive help with the U.S. university application process and financial aid strategies
- ◆ Become eligible for STEM internships in the Region, the U.S. and Canada
- ◆ Make new friends, increase your social network across the Region, and create networking opportunities

Student Demographics

SPISE has served 109 students to date. Graduates from the 2012-2016 classes are enrolled at some of the world's top science and engineering universities, including: MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, SUNY, UNC, Temple, Howard, Univ. Rochester, Florida Institute of Technology, Macalester, University College London, Univ. Edinburgh, Univ. Toronto, McMaster, Trent and UWI. Most have received generous financial aid packages. More information can be found at the CSF website at <http://caribbeanscience.org/projects/spise.php>.

"Grooming the next generation of Caribbean science and engineering leaders"

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