Overview: Established in 1919, the Austen Riggs Center ('Riggs') is an open-setting residential psychiatric hospital in Stockbridge, MA. Riggs offers a treatment program of psychodynamic psychotherapy which has proved successful for complex ‘treatment resistant’ psychiatric problems. The Erikson Institute for Education and Research at Riggs conducts research in concert with the clinical program to better understand the nature of psychiatric illnesses and of our treatment program. The Riggs Summer Research Internship program provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to engage directly in research projects while gaining insight into daily life at Riggs. In 2015 we anticipate hiring up to five Summer Interns.

Summer 2015 Internship Opportunity: 2015 is a year of both review and renewal in our research program. This provides an opportunity for Interns to work both with archival clinical materials and in the growth of new research projects. Interns are likely to work on multiple projects. Current projects include the following: more are likely to be added in early 2015.

• How do baseline personality factors impact a patient’s response to treatment?
• The nature of the treatment impasse in psychotherapy consultations
• Defining treatment resistance: Building a taxonomy for a complex term
• Long term impact of the Riggs treatment on individual mood
• Riggs research and social media: communicating our clinical findings to the world
• The Riggs Clinical Archive: De-identifying early/mid-20th century case materials
• Understanding the patient perspective on research

Duration: The weekly hours to be worked, and the start/end dates of the Internship, are negotiable per the applicant’s availability and scholastic schedule.

Terms: This is an unpaid Internship. No stipend, accommodation or housing is provided.

Anticipated Benefits: The opportunity to engage directly in medical research projects; and to gain insight into life and operations at a world-class psychiatric hospital.

Eligibility: Undergraduates focused on pre-medical, psychology, neuroscience or related areas.


Questions? Contact Kim Hunter-Schaedle, Ph.D., Manager of Institutional Research at kim.hunter-schaedle@austenriggs.net or call (413) 931-5820.

Notes:
1. Riggs is a working residential psychiatric hospital. The Intern will be expected to respect the privacy of the patient community and clinical operations.
2. The Intern will undergo background screening prior to employment, and must sign a Data Sharing Agreement for the purposes of working with sensitive clinical material.