



APERIO

Study Program for Initiative, Creativity and Unique Skills

Guidelines for applicants

This document includes instructions regarding applications into the Aperio program. Questions regarding other aspects of the Aperio program should be e-mailed to Dr. Kristinn R. Þórisson, thorisson@ru.is.

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Procedures

The application process is executed in two phases. Applicant should first submit a portfolio, as described below. The student portfolio is evaluated by a three-person committee with members from various departments within Reykjavik University. Applicant should present materials in a way that facilitates this evaluation.

Students selected into the second phase of evaluation may be invited to an interview with the evaluation committee and/or asked to give a public presentation of their work at Reykjavik University.

Applicant's Portfolio, Evaluation and Selection

The Aperio program targets three specific categories, in order of importance:

1. Creativity
2. Leadership abilities
3. Unique skills and achievements

All of these are evaluated in the context of the student's peers.

Aperio applicants must submit a portfolio describing the following:

- Inventions, creations, publications, presentations
- Organizations or companies founded/led
- Competition participation, prizes
- Memberships
- Three letters of recommendation that address the applicant's special skills/achievements.

Applicants should also write a short letter (half a page) where they describe the reasons for why they should be admitted to the Aperio program.

Inventions & Creations

Creations clearly evidencing extraordinary skills or talent compared to peers. For example creations, experiments or inventions in any area of science and technology e.g. buildings mechanics, electronics, botanics, machines, rockets, robotics, chemistry, and in the social sciences and philosophy, e.g. psychology, history, anthropology, law. Evidence of new inventions or innovations in any area of creation are an important criterion for the Aperio evaluation. This includes original musical compositions, writings, and any other products of creative thought.

Publications & Presentations

Any publications count favorably when evaluating portfolios. Published material authored solely by the applicant counts more than co-authored material.

Published material, in descending order of importance:

- Science journals



- Science conference papers
- Wide-circulation magazines articles
- Poster sessions and presentations at conferences (without accompanying published paper)
- Newspaper articles
- Letters to the editor
- Local school and organization publication articles
- Unpublished material

Of course the content and quality of the published material will also be evaluated; technical or theoretical material is typically more important than e.g. popular material. Original artistic compositions/output is also a clear indicator of creative thought and this is accounted for in the evaluation process. Special attention will be paid to published materials and public performances.

Published artistic material, in order of descending importance:

- International publication/distribution on CD or other mass-medium
- National publication/distribution on CD or other mass-medium
- International public performance
- Internet distribution with a significant number of downloads
- Public, national performance
 - Art festivals or equivalent
 - Smaller gatherings, e.g. school performances
- Materials published/distributed by the applicant
- Unpublished material

Organizations and Companies Founded

Active participation in organization(s) or organization(s) founded by applicants. Companies founded, whether successful or not, and their number, are of high value in the portfolio. Whether the companies are legally incorporated or not is not as important as their goals, activity and output.

Competition Participation & Prizes

National and international competitions participated in and prizes received in such competitions.

Grants

Grants that the applicant has been awarded. Specify who awarded the grant, how many applicants were there applying for the grant, the amount and everything that explains the nature of the grant.

Memberships

Memberships in international organizations and national professional organizations. Specify duration, participation in meetings and other activities.



Letters of Recommendation

These letters address other aspects of the student's talents than in any of the areas above. They typically discuss the student's special talents and achievements, those that make the student clearly stand out in relation to their peers. Any notable achievements in any of the areas above should be especially addressed and detailed.

The standard ways of evaluating the skills of students, such as grades and other academic achievements, are not very sensitive to students creative, leadership abilities or exceptional talents. Thus these standard methods of evaluation are unlikely to help identify such students. It does of course not mean that applicants that have good grades in school will be disqualified.

Submission

Students should submit their portfolio in a way that it is accessible, organised and readable. Keep the following in mind when organising the portfolio:

- Organize materials like participation in competitions, prizes and such by listing.
- Dates (month/year) should be included with each event.
- Keep the dates for everything on your list should be in the same format and on the right column, so it is easy to see when event/job/competition took place.
- Students should avoid writing paragraphs, unless it is necessary in order to describe an aspect of the application where a list is not sufficient. It is extremely important that all descriptions are short and to the point.
- Letters of recommendation should be mailed and signed by the person that is giving the recommendation.

Articles, awards, descriptions of companies, descriptions of inventions and other materials should be included as photocopies and/or as files on a CD, but they should also be included in the overview paper. The applicants letter and CV should also be included with the application in a printed version.

Applications should be addressed to:

APERIO Program
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c/o Kristinn R. Thórisson
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101 Reykjavík