The Alliances for Learning and Vision for Underrepresented Americans (ALVA) is a partnership between industry and the University of Washington. For entering UW freshmen interested in engineering and computer science, MSEP ALVA provides: 1) engineering internship positions; 2) a transitional bridge program and; 3) specialized services while in college. Selected applicants are first placed in a paid internship for eight to nine weeks the summer after they graduate from high school. Participants have most recently interned with The Boeing Company (Renton, WA), the University of Washington (Seattle, WA), Intel (Dupont, WA), or NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Pasadena, CA).\(^1\) Housing arrangements/costs vary by intern site. ALVA students connect with industry professionals, and peers from diverse backgrounds. Hands-on experience with professional engineers improves critical-thinking, analytical and communication skills, which are needed to persist in engineering studies. At the conclusion of the intern program, students give formal presentations on their intern experience and become more aware of technical career opportunities. Following the internship, ALVA students are automatically admitted into a four week Engineering Bridge Program\(^2\) with housing scholarships for those that have housing through UW Student Housing for the upcoming academic year. They join other entering UW STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) bound freshmen students. EBP prepares students for college-level engineering academics and introduces them to crucial University of Washington faculty/staff and services prior to their first quarter at the University of Washington. EBP provides access to personal advising with an MSEP or other Student Academic Services advisor throughout their engineering/computer science collegiate career. The intense intern and bridge components of ALVA combine to form a supportive network that keeps students motivated and increases retention in engineering and computer science related disciplines.

To apply for an MSEP ALVA position, send the following items in one complete packet to the address listed on page two of these instructions:

- MSEP ALVA Application, typed or legibly handwritten in black or blue ink with proper signatures.
- Official Transcripts: High School and College (if applicable).
- Test Scores (official or unofficial): SAT, ACT, AP, etc. and TOEFL or other English proficiency exam if native language is not English if available.
- Resume, typed with name and contact information; employment experience, including dates; schools attending/attended; special academic programs or training institutes attended; computer skills & known programs; leadership, awards and honors; and extra-curricular activities including community service and sports.
- Two letters of recommendation, which address your academic ability and potential to complete a four-year degree in engineering or related discipline, teamwork and leadership skills, commitment, reliability and ability to work independently. Recommendation letters are to be in sealed envelopes with signatures across the seal. One letter must be from a math/science teacher or academic mentor on official school letterhead.
- ALVA Essay, 1-2 typed pages that addresses the following:
  - Your long-term career and/or educational goals;
  - Type(s) of engineering or computer science related studies you are most interested in and why;
  - Kind of engineering or computer science internship experience you are looking for;
  - Kind of workplace you think would be the best fit for you.
  If you already have had internship experience, please briefly describe it. In addition, please list any relevant research skills that you have – whether you have learned them in a course, laboratory or workplace.

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\(^1\) University of Washington Business and Genomics based ALVA programs are also available, for more information contact:
- Genomics: The GenOM (Genomics Outreach for Minorities) Project, 206.685.2593
- Business: UW Michael G. Foster School of Business’ Undergraduate Diversity Services, 206.221.5128

\(^2\) For more information on the Engineering Bridge Program, visit http://www.engr.washington.edu/prosp_students/bridge.html

MARCH 1 DEADLINE

Instructions, page 1 of 2
ALVA positions are offered to applicants who show the most potential to benefit from and contribute to the program. In addition, prior to final placement all ALVA interns must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Receive an offer of admission to the University of Washington;
2. Submit their University of Washington New Student Enrollment and Orientation Fee for Autumn;
3. Plan to major in fields related to engineering or computer science;
4. Agree to attend the Engineering Bridge Program after their internship;
5. Satisfy employment requirements of the specific ALVA host site to which they are assigned;
6. Agree to the terms and conditions of being an ALVA intern as outlined in ALVA intern position offers, and
7. Attend the Spring ALVA Orientation (exact date TBD) at the University of Washington prior to beginning the summer intern position.

You are encouraged to apply for ALVA even if you have not yet applied or committed to attend the University of Washington.

Completed applications POSTMARKED BY THE MARCH 1 DEADLINE will have the first and fullest consideration for available ALVA positions. Applications received after this date will be considered only if positions are still available. Our intent is to complete all ALVA intern placements prior to May 1. Mail all application materials to:

MSEP ALVA
UW College of Engineering
301 Loew Hall, Box 352180
Seattle, WA 98195-2180

Before submitting your MSEP ALVA Application, keep copies of all application materials for your records and submit the originals.

If you have any questions regarding MSEP ALVA, or the application process contact:

College of Engineering Student Academic Services
Minority Scholars Engineering Program
Phone: 206-543-1770
Fax: 206-616-8554
engradv@u.washington.edu