

# Teaching Opportunities in Physical Science

MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms

## TOPS 2016 APPLICATION FORM

**Due Date for Application: February 1, 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

College or University \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Current Academic Level     Sophomore     Junior

Letters of Recommendation:

Please choose people who have had personal contact with you during your college years. At least one of these should be able to comment on her/his experience with you in an academic context, for example a small class, a research project or possibly a situation in which you have had the chance to teach.

List the names and contact information of the two people who will write recommendations for you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Essay

Please discuss each of the following items thoughtfully and thoroughly. The total length is typically two to three pages.

1. Describe briefly your educational background and goals, including any relevant teaching, laboratory or research experience. Please mention any courses or other experiences you have had in the two TOPS '16 teaching topics: energy and light.
2. As a participant in the TOPS program, you will be working as part of a team of four to design and teach courses to young learners. What particular skills do you feel that you will bring to the team?
3. As a prospective participant in our program, what aspects of teaching in TOPS excite you the most?

Send this completed application, along with two letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes and an official transcript to:

**Center for Ultracold Atoms**  
**TOPS Program**  
MIT Room 26-237  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

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## RECOMMENDATION FORM

Dear Recommender,

You have been asked to write a letter of reference for \_\_\_\_\_ as part of his/her application to the TOPS program. TOPS is a program designed to help inspire college students with majors in physical science or engineering who are considering careers teaching physical science at the pre-college level.

Each student will work as part of a team of four undergraduates to design and teach short courses on one of two topics: heat or light. The courses will be taught to young learners at two levels: middle school (one week) and high school (two weeks). We are particularly interested in your thoughts on how the student you are recommending will contribute to our program.

1. Please give us your judgment of the student's academic capability in physical science, particularly with respect to the two topics that will be taught: energy and light.
2. Because the student will work as part of a team, we are interested in your comments on the student's working style, particularly as part of a group.
3. The ultimate goal of TOPS is to help inspire undergraduates to pursue careers in teaching. We would appreciate your impressions of the student as a potential teacher.

Please place your letter in a sealed envelope and give it to the student to send in to TOPS with the completed application. The TOPS application due date is February 1, 2016.

Further information about TOPS can be found at: <http://www.rle.mit.edu/tops/>

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