

SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

What are they good for? How does it all work?

Finding and Applying to Programs

WHAT IS "SUMMER RESEARCH"?

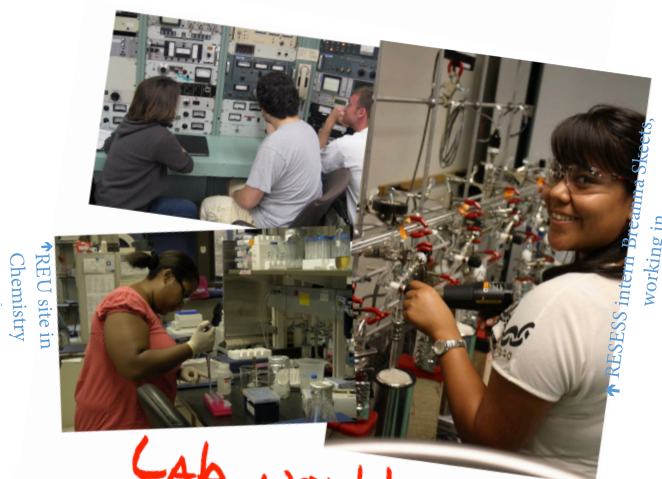
Research experiences for undergraduates give students a chance to work in meaningful ways with faculty and researchers conducting ongoing research programs or projects. These programs offer a *hands-on experience* in the lab or in the field with *professional development* support. It's meant to build your skills, to be *fun* and inspiring, and it's often *paid* – most programs offer a stipend and many cover travel and housing as well. It's often in the summer – but not always! Some programs occur during the academic year as well.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

- ⇒ *Build your academic foundation.*
- ⇒ *Get hands-on experience in the field.*
- ⇒ *Explore fields of interest.*
- ⇒ *Make valuable connections with faculty.*
- ⇒ *Enjoy travel, new friends, and fun!*
- ⇒ *A stepping stone to graduate school.*



FUN!



Lab work!
Professional Development



Field work!



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GREAT! SO HOW DO I APPLY?

It takes time and effort to search for, select and apply to programs you are interested in – and it's time and effort that has to fit in around all your other schoolwork! Here's a suggested timeline that will help you plan for success.

CONGRATULATIONS! Have a great summer, and enjoy your undergraduate research experience!

I. SUMMER / EARLY FALL

- ☐ Get organized
- ☐ Begin drafting cover letter & personal statement
- ☐ Update and revise your resume
- ☐ Use your campus career and writing centers!
- ☐ Discuss the potential of summer research experience with family

For more details, visit **The Resource Toolbox** at www.pathwaystoscience.org and print PDF handouts on:

The Benefits of an Undergraduate Summer Research Experience

Discussing Summer Research with Your Family

Searching for a Program: Great Online Search Tools

Creating a Winning Application

Writing Strong Essays and Personal Statements

Getting Strong Letters of Recommendation

II. FALL

- ☐ Search for programs. Use www.pathwaystoscience.org!
- ☐ Note application deadlines, requirements and contacts
- ☐ Seek input from peers and mentors
- ☐ Make use of extra time during Thanksgiving break!
- ☐ Identify & talk with potential recommenders
- ☐ Research process for requesting transcripts
- ☐ Stay organized!

III. EARLY TO MID WINTER

- ☐ Make your final selection of programs to apply to
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation 2 months in advance
- ☐ Polish - and re-polish - your essays & cover letter
- ☐ Request transcripts

IV. MID TO LATE WINTER

- ☐ Make use of your winter break to work on your apps.
- ☐ Follow up with your recommenders
- ☐ Make sure your contact info will be active in spring
- ☐ APPLY! Complete and submit applications.
- ☐ Call to confirm your application was received in full.

V. SPRING

- ☐ Keep a look out . . . **check your email!**
- ☐ Consider offers: stipend? housing? travel?
- ☐ Select and respond

VI. EARLY SUMMER

- ☐ Receive and read materials for your program
- ☐ Sign and return forms as appropriate
- ☐ Join the program's listserv or social media tools
- ☐ Touch base with your recommenders - let them know your successful outcome, and say thank you!