REU Information Session

Mayra Amezcua
Friday, November 18th
What is REU?

- Research Experience for Undergraduates
- Paid summer research
- Sponsored by the Host Institution and the National Science Foundation
- Experience grad school
REU Program

- 10 Weeks of research
- $5,000 stipend
- Housing and Travel (depends on program)
- Attend talks
- Work with graduate students, postdocs, and professors
- Networking or grad school opportunities
- Mentoring
- Give a final talk and submit a research report
Find a few REU programs

Step 1
How to find REUs?

Search for an REU Site | NSF - National Science Foundation
https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU). REU Program Overview ... Search for an REU Site. Astronomical Sciences ... Search Clear. List all REU sites ...

REU Sites | NSF - National Science Foundation
https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=5047

139 items - REU Alumni: Please note the following opportunities: (1) Graduate Research ... Please report errors in the list below by writing to reu.bio@nsf.gov.

Research Experiences for Undergraduates | NSF - National Science Foundation
https://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/

May 26, 2017. Fourth Friday in May. Annually Thereafter. Deadline for REU Site proposals requiring access to Antarctica. All other REU Site proposals must be ...
Search for an REU Site

Astronomical Sciences
Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Cyberinfrastructure
Department of Defense (DoD)
Earth Sciences
Education and Human Resources
Engineering
Ethics and Values Studies
International Science and Engineering
Materials Research
Mathematical Sciences
Ocean Sciences
Physics
Polar Programs
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

SEARCH BY RESEARCH AREAS/KEYWORDS:
Enter full or partial research areas/keywords separated by commas.
(e.g. geophysics, ecology, nano, robot, ethics)

And/Or State:

Search
Clear

List all REU sites
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Information</th>
<th>Site Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama A&amp;M University</td>
<td>Normal, Alabama</td>
<td>Primary: Dr. Padjama Guggilla</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Materials Science, Optics and Space Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Materials Science, Optics and Space Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>(256) 372-8141 <a href="mailto:patjama.guggilla@aamu.edu">patjama.guggilla@aamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Abstract of Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor University</td>
<td>Waco, Texas</td>
<td>Primary: Trueall Hyde</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Astrophysics, Plasma, Particle, Quantum Space, Superstring and Surface Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Astrophysics, Plasma, Particle, Quantum Space, Superstring and Surface Physics</td>
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<td>(254) 710-6717 <a href="mailto:Trueall_Hyde@baylor.edu">Trueall_Hyde@baylor.edu</a></td>
<td>Comments: RET component</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Hills State University</td>
<td>Spearfish, South Dakota</td>
<td>Primary: Dr. Brianna Mount</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Underground Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Underground Science</td>
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<td>(605) 642-6094 <a href="mailto:Brianna.mount@bhsu.edu">Brianna.mount@bhsu.edu</a></td>
<td>Abstract of Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
<td>Provo, Utah</td>
<td>Primary: Professor R. Steve Turley</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Atomic Physics, Condensed Matter, Visible Astronomy, Acoustics, Ultrast Nonlinear Optics, Computational &amp; Experimental Plasma Physics, Extreme Ultraviolet Optics, Surface Physics, Electron Microscopy</td>
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<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Atomic Physics, Condensed Matter, Visible Astronomy, Acoustics, Ultrast Nonlinear Optics, Computational &amp; Experimental Plasma Physics, Extreme Ultraviolet Optics, Surface Physics, Electron Microscopy</td>
<td></td>
<td>(801) 422-3095 <a href="mailto:reu@byu.edu">reu@byu.edu</a></td>
<td>Comments: RET component is funded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Pasadena, California</td>
<td>Primary: Professor Alan J. Weinstein</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Gravitational radiation from astrophysical sources, including precision measurements, laser interferometry, optical systems, electronics, servo controls, complex mechanical systems, environmental moni</td>
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<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Gravitational radiation from astrophysical sources, including precision measurements, laser interferometry, optical systems, electronics, servo controls, complex mechanical systems, environmental moni</td>
<td></td>
<td>(626) 355-2216 <a href="mailto:ajw@caltech.edu">ajw@caltech.edu</a></td>
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<td>Coe College</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids, Iowa</td>
<td>Primary: Ms. Susan Noreuil</td>
<td>Research Topics/Keywords: Physics and Chemistry, Optics, Glass Science, Acoustics, Molecular Biology, Modeling and Biomaterials</td>
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<td>(319) 359-8524 <a href="mailto:snoreuil@coe.edu">snoreuil@coe.edu</a></td>
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<td>Abstract of Award</td>
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Deciding Where to Apply

Step 2
Things to think about

– **What kind of work do you want to do?**
  – Theory or Experimental or Computational

– **What areas interest you the most?**
  – Materials, High Energy, Optics, Biophysics...etc.

– **What courses have you taken or will take that can help your application?**

– **Where do you want to go?**
  – East Coast, West Coast, South, Midwest?
It will be helpful to know who you want to work with from each program so you can tie it into your personal statement.
The Application

Step 3
Before the Application

– Check eligibility
– Review projects and mentors to identify your preferences and interests
– Secure 2-3 faculty recommenders (email in advance!!!!!)
– Prepare transcript and CV/resume
Eligibility

- Must be an undergraduate student*
- US citizen or permanent resident
- See any special requirements based on the program

*Seniors may not be eligible
Gentle Reminder

Read through the entire application before applying!
Online Form

- Contact information
- Education information
  - Course hours
  - GPA
  - Course list
- References
  - Need professors’ email
- Candidate Statement**
### Identification and Contact Information

**NAME OF APPLICANT**

- First
- Middle
- Last
- Suffix [no generational suffix] [optional]

**DATE OF BIRTH**

- Month [select month]
- Day [select day]
- Year [select year]

**MAILING ADDRESS**

- Line 1
- Line 2
- City
- State/Terr. [select]
- Zip Code [select] [United States]
- Country

**PRIMARY CONTACTS**

- Phone [select]
- Email [select]

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### Faculty Submitting Recommendations

Valid email addresses are essential for your faculty recommendations.

- Ask email addresses are strongly preferred.
- If you give invalid addresses, your recommenders will not receive the email messages that would enable them to recommend you.
- Recommendations must be completed by the specified recommenders; applicants may not submit their own recommendations.
- Examiner. If the name is John Doe as Recommender 1, your application will be considered delayed. The email address you provide for Recommender 1 should be the one that is associated with your recommender. If your recommender is submitted by someone other than John Doe, please correct the email address for Recommender 1.

**FERPA**

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, you have the right not to view these recommendations in your file at any time. Do you choose to waive that right?

- Yes, I waive my right of access to these recommendations.
- No, I retain my right of access to these recommendations.

Note: Some faculty prefer to write recommendations (even very positive ones) only for students who waive this right of access.

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### Summer Research Preference

You will be considered only for the programs you rank. See Program and project descriptions for details.

MRSEC applicants: Consult MRSEC for instructions, and complete this form only if also applying for additional programs.

**#1 program choice (required):**

Make a selection above and options will appear here.

- [select a program]

**#2 program choice (optional):**

Make a selection above and options will appear here.

- None - the other programs do not interest me.

**#3 program choice (optional):**

Make a selection above and options will appear here.

- None - the other programs do not interest me.
Candidate Statement/Short Answer Section

- Opportunity to provide faculty with information about your
  - research experience
  - personal strengths
  - educational goals.
- Chance to explain anything that wasn’t addressed in other sections
  - Academic deficiencies

Tell them why you are the ideal candidate!
Transcripts

– Email or mail
– Request a copy from the registrar to scan and send in
– Screenshots not acceptable

**Transcripts can take a day or two so make sure to request it well in advance!**
Faculty Recommendations

– Pick 2-3 professors that know you well!
– Email professors at least 3 weeks in advance
– Who is responsible for turning in the recommendations?
  – Faculty or will the program contact them
– Check whether they need to fill out any additional forms
– Professors are busy so send them gentle reminders
Deadlines

– Make sure you know when the application is due!
– Try to apply before the last day to avoid any site issues.
The Waiting Game

Step 4
– Check the website!

– Respond to any requests ASAP!!

– You may not hear back from programs so you can always email the contact person.

– If you don’t hear anything by April start looking for other summer opportunities.
Final Thoughts to Keep in Mind When Applying

From University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Reviewers look for applicants who:

– Have a passion for the discipline
– Show an interest in earning an advanced degree
– Bring diverse talents and skills to the research team
Strong Applications Include:

– Evidence of high academic achievement and preparation
– Evidence of teamwork and independent problem-solving skills
– Faculty recs from those who can speak about academic performance
– Materials that are well written and free of error