

SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

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

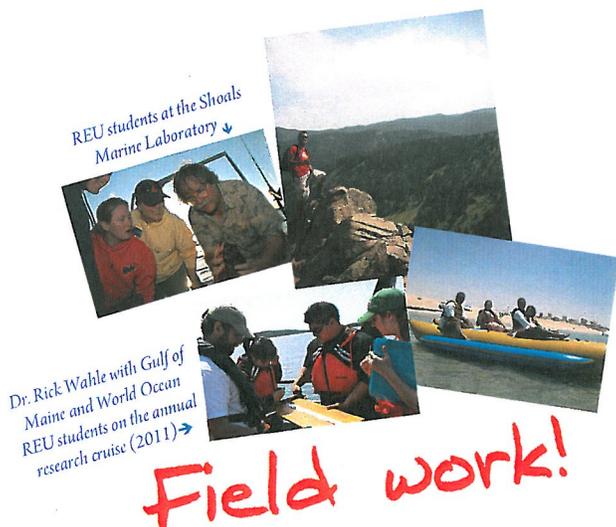
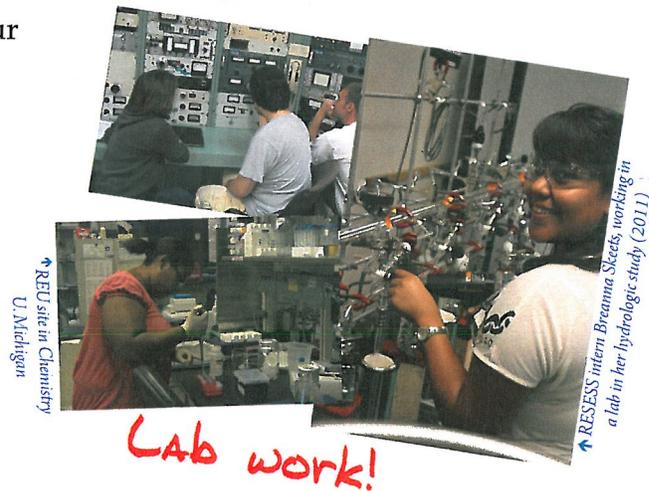
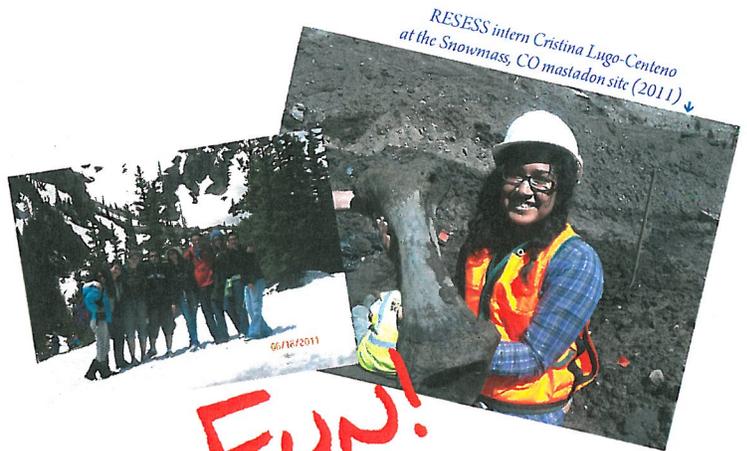
Finding and Applying to Programs

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.



www.pathwaystoscience.org

contactus@ibparticipation.org

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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.

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

II. FALL

- Search for programs. Use [www.pathwaystoscience.com!](http://www.pathwaystoscience.com)
- 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!

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

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



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