How To Find Funded Summer Research

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Honors College
What do we mean by “undergraduate research”?

- Design, Create, Discover
  - Faculty supervision
  - Research in labs
  - Creative design activities
  - Scholarly studies
- Goes beyond the classroom
  - Active learning
  - Not just lab coats
Why Do Research

- **Educational Benefits Include:**
  - Working closely with a faculty mentor
  - Learning about issues, methods, and leaders in students' chosen fields
  - Applying concepts learned in coursework to "real life" situations
  - Sharpening problem-solving skills
  - Learn to read primary literature
Why Do Research

- **Professional Benefits Include:**
  - Exploring and preparing for future careers
  - Developing marketable skills
  - Enhancing professional communication skills
  - Collaborating with others and working effectively as part of a team
Why Do Research

*Personal Benefits Include:*

- Growing as a critical, analytical, and independent thinker
- Meeting challenges and demonstrating the ability to complete a project
- Discovering personal interests
- Developing internal standards of excellence
How Do You Find An On Campus Research Position?

- Talk to professors
- Honorable Mention
- Talk with other people in departments
- Explore the "Research opportunities" section of the Centre for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (CURCA) website
- Attend or participate in the Celebration of Academic Excellence – April 12th 12:00 CFA
- Apply for Honors College Research and Creativity Funding
- Register for a research-oriented course
UB Summer Research Opportunities

- ADHD Summer Treatment Program
  - Summit Educational
- Hauptman–Woodward Medical Research Institute Summer Program
UB Summer Research Opportunities

- Roswell Park Cancer Institute Summer Program
- The CLIMB UP for Summer Research at UB
- Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies in Biomedical Sciences
- ERIE IGERT REU
UB Summer Programs

- [http://cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep.html](http://cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep.html)
- Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
  - Shanna Crump-Owens, Director
    - 222 Norton Hall, 645-2002
  - sicrump@buffalo.edu
- LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation)
  - Dr. Letitia Thomas
    - 255 Capen Hall, 645-7301
    - lthomas@buffalo.edu
- McNair Scholars Program
  - Dr. Susan Ott, Director
    - 220 Norton Hall, 645-5478
    - sjott@buffalo.edu
Externally Funded Research Opportunities

- **National Science Foundation– Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)** -
- **Institute for Broadening Participation**

- Astronomical Sciences
- Atmospheric Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- 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
- Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
Federally Funded

- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- NASA
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Naval Research
- ORISE
Many NASA labs have openings, most are due January 31

http://intern.nasa.gov/
Look at the labs:
- Sandia National Laboratory
- Idaho National Laboratory
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Argonne National Laboratory

http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/application/default.htm
How Can I Find an Experience?

- PIVOT
- http://fundingopps.cos.com
- www.science.gov/internships
- http://www.webguru.neu.edu/
Tips for a Successful Application

- Get organized!
- Follow directions and pay attention to the guidelines (especially deadlines)
- Demonstrate strong writing skills
- Your application reflects care (attention to detail, editing, completeness) (For tips and assistance with writing, check out UB’s Writing Place [http://tlc.buffalo.edu/lcwrite.htm](http://tlc.buffalo.edu/lcwrite.htm))
- Focus your personal statement (reveal your interest in and motivation for research)
- Have strong letters of reference (be sure to contact references early and provide them with your information)
- Your application reflects your interest in the field of research
- Your professional goals are in line with program guidelines
What should be in statements of purpose?

- Why you want to do research in general
- Why these projects? What’s interesting in them to you?
- What’s your background (give context for why you are interested).
- Do NOT cut and paste from their website, or give generic platitudes about how wonderful they or you are.
Where to get help:

- Fellowship website
  www.fellowships.buffalo.edu
Letters of Recommendation

- Faculty over TA’s
- Ask EARLY
- Provide a list of the programs, what you find interesting at the REU and a copy of your resume.
Time Line for Summer Research

- **November** – applications become available
- **Winter Break** – research, visit, prepare
- **February** – applications due
- **May – August** – 7–10 week experience
Pay/Stipend/Travel/$$$$$$$$$$$$

- Stipends $1,000–$6,000
- Room/board/travel
- Conference presentation

- Wonderful experience for graduate school admission
Questions?