

REU: Research Experience for Undergraduates

What is an REU:

- The REU program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). They are prestigious summer programs (about ten weeks May-August) for undergraduates and are highly competitive. It is an opportunity to gain invaluable insight into the research process and to gain essential technical and non-essential skills.

Research areas:

- REUs are primarily in the scientific fields; they cover many different fields of research which range from chemistry, ocean science, and earth science; they also range in research topics within business, which might include small business innovation or social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

Who can participate:

- Participants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.

Where are they located:

- At host institutions across the country, there are some opportunities abroad.

Benefits:

- Professional development opportunities vary by site location but may include joint workshops on ethics and responsible conduct of research, proposal writing, presentation of talks and posters, applying to graduate school, and career opportunities in science.
- Participants may have the opportunity to present their research in a summer research symposium or get published
- Meet other students and faculty who share your research interests
- Gain hands-on experience, find out what you like and are good at/find out what you don't like and what you are not good at
- Find a graduate research program and enhance likelihood of being admitted to the program of your choice, or winning fellowships

Find a graduate research advisor/mentor **Is it paid:**

- Ranges from a \$4,000-5,000 stipends and may have assistance for housing and travel

Application information:

- Application deadlines February – March (varies by site)

- General requirements: 1-3 letters of reference, a transcript, 0-2 essays, letter of interest, and a resume
- Students must contact the individual sites for information and application materials. A contact person and contact information are listed for each site on the NSF website.

Make sure it is a good fit:

- It is important to evaluate the REU program; selecting an appropriate REU site is essential to a student's success within the program. Since there is great variability in training environments, within teams of researchers, and between host sites, it is important to ask questions before accepting an offer. There are three important elements to consider: quality and focus of the program, experience, and expectation of your research supervisor, background, and interest of the research group you will be working with.

Where can you get started:

- https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp
- <https://careers.northeastern.edu/article/research-experiences-for-undergraduates/>
- http://www.webguru.neu.edu/#_ga=1.96689245.355349007.1461793538