

FINDING AN REU

WHAT IS AN REU?

- REU= Research Experience for Undergraduates
- REU programs are summer or academic year programs to provide research opportunities for undergraduate science and engineering students (STEM).
- Summer REU programs are paid eight to 10 week summer internship programs designed to provide students with a research experience at an institution other than their own.
- Summer REU programs serve as a recruiting tool for the host university.
- REU participants work on an individual research project under the direction of a faculty or staff member (e.g., postgrad researcher).
- REU programs are designed to simulate the graduate school experience and prepare participants for graduate study in the sciences or engineering

Each applicant for the Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates will have to provide the following information, by the application deadline (deadlines will vary depending on the program, but usually between February and March)

APPLYING FOR AN REU

This is standard for all REUs:

1. 1-2 Page essay (Why this particular program? Why are you the best candidate? State relevant experiences and why you would make a successful researcher)
2. Application form
3. 2 letters of recommendation (start early!)
4. Transcript

THE DETAILS

- There should be no application fee (be wary if there is!)
- Most REU programs require a minimum GPA of 3.0. If you have under a 3.0 your application will not be considered.
- Give your references about a month's notice when asking for a letter of reference.
- Many schools offer an online application that requires uploading your materials and letters of reference.
- Most applications are available from early December until early to mid-February.
- Decisions are usually made in early to mid-March.
- Usually have approximately 2 weeks to accept an offer.

WHERE TO SEARCH FOR AN REU?

- Faculty
- Student Experiences Database: select “science” under Employer Type/Field of Work
- NSF website http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm
- Ecological Society of America Listserv (search archives: keyword REU):
<https://listserv.umd.edu/archives/ecolog-l.html>
- WebGURU <http://www.webguru.neu.edu>
- NASA <http://usrp.usra.edu/students/>
- NOAA http://www.education.noaa.gov/Special_Topics/Student_Opportunities.html
- EPA <http://www.epa.gov/careers/internships/index.html>
- USDA <http://www.dm.usda.gov/employ/student/internship.htm>
- AMS <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/undergrad/undergrad>
- AAMC https://www.aamc.org/members/great/61052/great_summerlinks.htm

ADVICE

- Do your research on the REU programs you plan to apply to
- Don't be afraid to email and/or call program directors
- Check the Carleton Alumni Directory
- Application process is highly competitive
 - Apply to at least 3-5 REUs
 - Respect deadlines
- Confirm your application is complete
 - Follow up with your letter writers
- Personalize your essay to each program
 - One essay does not fit all
 - Use examples to illustrate skill set
 - Long term career goals?
 - First choice? Why?