

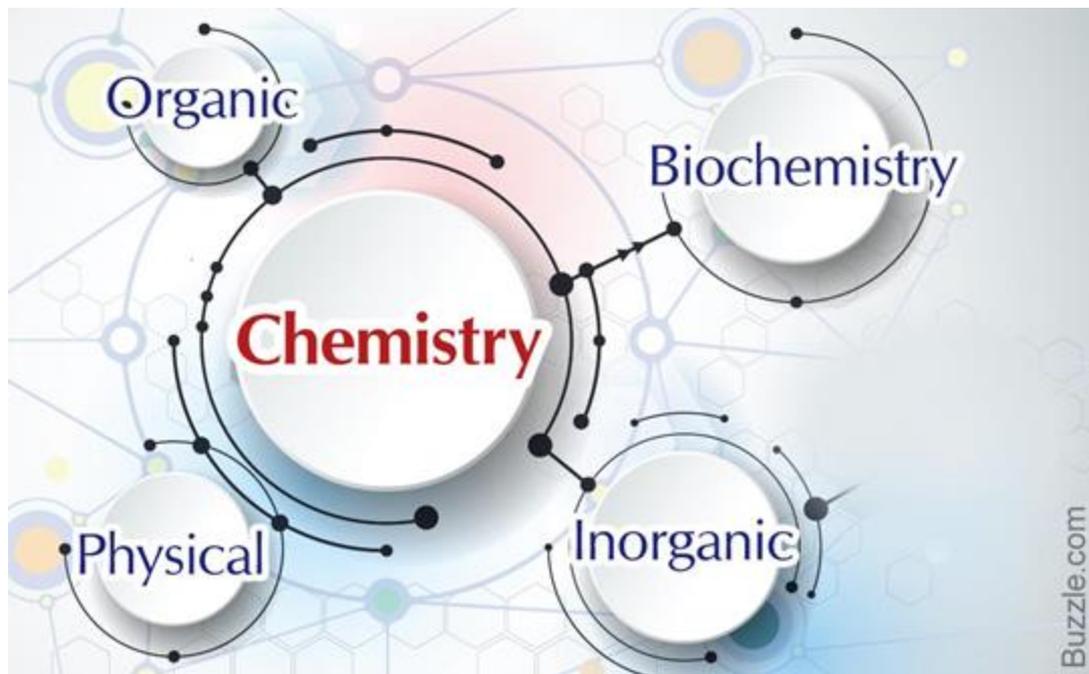
Finding Off-Campus Summer Research Opportunities in Chemistry (and Related Disciplines)

Nov. 14, 2025

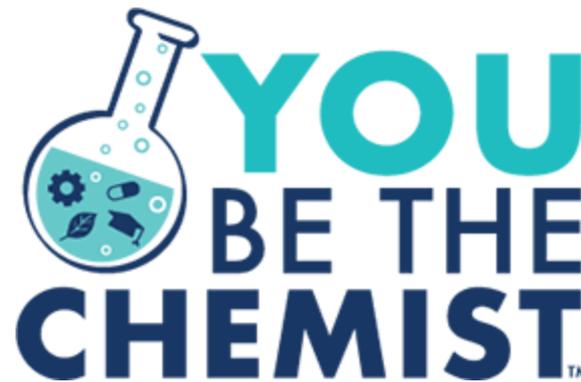


General Info

- Typically 8 – 10 weeks in a research lab working on a project with a mentor
- Stipends vary, ~\$4500 - \$6000+ for the summer (sometimes travel and housing is also provided)
- At universities, national labs, or sometimes companies
- Summer programs often include community-building with other students, seminars, and info sessions
- End of program often includes poster presentation that you can also present at Carleton's Research Celebration in October.



Who Should Apply



- Any student interested in
 - Learning whether you enjoy research
 - A potential future in science
 - Going to graduate school
 - Going to Medical School (especially MD/PhD)
- International students will need to do an extra course (3 credit) after returning – discuss with ISL and department faculty

What Not To Worry About



- The start date of the programs as advertised (apply first, negotiate after you are accepted if they start before spring term ends).
- Specific knowledge of exactly what you want to do. This is about getting research experience, not about knowing your future path in detail.
- GPA – apply no matter what. Don't make the decision for the program, let them do it.
- Having prior research experience. These programs are about getting it, not necessarily having had it.
- Citizenship status (with caveats)
 - If the site doesn't give clear info, ask them
 - Ask a faculty member to inquire for you

When and How to Apply

- As soon as programs are available
- Typical deadlines are Dec. – March
- **Winter Break** is the right time to start
- Apply to lots of program (~10) at a variety of types of institutions in a variety of geographical areas
- You will need:
 - Personal statement
 - Transcript
 - Letters of recommendation (~2) from STEM faculty



How and When to Ask for Letters

- Identify faculty members who know you as more than just a face in the crowd (you had one or more classes with, lab with, or other interactions).
- Ask for letters as soon as possible (before winter break!); your application list need not be final.
- Create a list of programs and deadlines to give to your letter writers (emphasize when the first deadline is). Include forms or links, if needed.
- Provide other requested info (transcript, draft personal statement, interests, etc.)
- Applications typically ask who will be providing recommendation letters, then the program contacts each of the recommenders for a submission.

Where To Find Opportunities

- [The Weekly Beaker](#) (click the [research tab](#))
 - Updated weekly on Wednesdays
 - If you are not signed up, scan here 
- The [Department Webpage – Research sub-page](#)
- [National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites](#)
- [American Chemical Society Job Listings](#)
- [The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#)
- [Científico Latino](#)
- Chemistry Department Resources:
 - Discussions with faculty
 - Attending Department Seminars (and lunches with visitors)



Other Ways To Get Funding

- [Kolenkow-Reitz Fellowships](#)
 - Deadline: 5:00 PM on Tuesday, April 1, 2025
 - Funds you to work in a specific lab/program off campus. You must have a connection with a PI in order to apply
- [Career Center Internship Funding](#)
 - Deadline: likely early spring term
 - Application specifics are [online](#)
- [Summer Science Fellows](#)
 - Deadline: early winter term
 - Only first-years and sophomores can apply
 - Funds two summers of research at Carleton or elsewhere

Questions?

- Feel free to talk with any Chemistry faculty member for advice.
- Talk to faculty in other departments if you are interested in research in other disciplines.

Part 2, On-Campus Positions:

Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, 3:30pm, AND 329

We will discuss on-campus summer research opportunities with chemistry faculty as well as application procedures.

