



What is an REU?

The National Science Foundation funds a large number of research opportunities for undergraduate students through its REU Sites program. An REU Site consists of a group of ten or so undergraduates who work in the research programs of the host institution. Each student is associated with a specific research project, where he/she works closely with the faculty and other researchers. Students are granted stipends and, in many cases, assistance with housing and travel. Undergraduate students supported with NSF funds must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its possessions. An REU Site may be at either a US or foreign location.

Why Do A Summer REU?

- ❖ Renew your passion for science
- ❖ Travel to new places and meet new people
- ❖ Improve a variety of skills while using new equipment, written and oral communication

Expectations

You **will** be

- ❖ busy every day, all day
- ❖ expected to contribute to your mentor's research program
- ❖ give 100% of your effort to this endeavor

REU compensation packages vary depending on the program, but can include:

- ❖ Stipend
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Travel to / from the research site

Websites to search REU opportunities:

- ❖ **FSC Internships and REU Site:** <http://www.flsouthern.edu/schools/arts-and-sciences/science-pre-health-advising/science-internships-and-reus.aspx>
- ❖ **National Science Foundation (NSF) Opportunities:** https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp
- ❖ **Pathways to Science Summer Research Programs:**
http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programs.aspx?descriptorhub=SummerResearch_Summer%20Research%20Opportunity
- ❖ **Summer Research Opportunities in the Life Sciences:** <https://people.rit.edu/gtfsbi/Symp/summer.htm>
- ❖ **Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education:** <http://orise.ornl.gov/science-education/internships-scholarships-fellowships/undergraduates.aspx>
- ❖ **The Leadership Alliance: Summer Research- Early Identification Program (SR-EIP):**
<http://www.theleadershipalliance.org/programs/summer-research>
- ❖ **Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) Program – US Department of Energy:**
<https://science.energy.gov/wdts/suli/>
- ❖ **Discipline specific:**
 - **American Mathematical Society (AMS) Math REUs:** <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/emp-reu>
 - **American Physical Society (APS) Physics REU Site List:**
<http://www.aps.org/careers/employment/internships.cfm#undergrad>
 - **American Chemical Society (ACS) Internships & REUs:** <http://getexperience.acs.org/>
 - **NIH: Summer Internship in Biomedical Research:** <https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/sip>

Preparing your REU Application

Most REU applications will require:

- ❖ A list of your college mathematics and science courses
- ❖ One or two letters of recommendation
- ❖ A personal statement addressing the question “why should we select you for our program?”
- ❖ Transcripts (usually unofficial but some programs require official transcripts)

Application “DO’s”:

- ❖ Take the time to identify programs that are right for you.
- ❖ Don’t put all your eggs in one basket. Apply to multiple programs of interest.
- ❖ Start assembling your application early. An application cannot be done in one night. Conducting research and applying will take some time.
- ❖ Ask for letters of recommendation at least two weeks ahead of the deadline and provide faculty with all the necessary information to write and send the letter. Follow up with a reminder three days before the letter is due. ,
- ❖ Your personal statement for all your REU apps can be mostly the same, but you should have 1 – 2 paragraphs that are specific to each program. You might cite the location, the topic of study, etc.
- ❖ Be specific in your personal statement about your passion and interests in “X”. Saying I have always liked mathematics” is not compelling.
- ❖ If you have weak grades in a class or received weak grades during a semester, explain it in your personal statement. You do not have to dwell on it, but you should explain it.
- ❖ Most REU programs require you to work as part of a research team. You should address this in your personal statement by including a sentence or two about your experience working as a team - good or bad or what you learned about yourself from that group project.

Application “DON’Ts”:

- ❖ Do not request a letter of recommendation from a high school teacher. REU programs want to know about your work at the college level.
- ❖ Do not request a letter of recommendation at the last minute.
- ❖ If you write about the origins of your interest in “X” do not spend too much time writing about
 - K-12; the focus of your personal statement should at the college level.
- ❖ Do not submit a personal statement that has not been edited by someone else- even if it is your roommate or good friend. A second pair of eyes will catch things that you have missed.

Acceptance

Once you are accepted to a program(s):

- ❖ Let your advisor know!
- ❖ Promptly send in all requested information to the REU program director and always respond promptly to emails from the program.
- ❖ Once you commit to a program, you cannot go back on your word. In other words if you say “yes” to a program and a week later find out you were accepted to a different program, you must keep your word and go to the first one you said you would go to.

For more information contact the FSC Career and Internship Coordinator at lalbaum@flsouthern.edu or visit <http://www.flsouthern.edu/schools/arts-and-sciences/science-pre-health-advising.aspx>.