Finding & Applying for Summer Programs

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

C.U.R.E. at UCLA
Collaboration in Undergraduate Research Enrichment

Why do summer research?

- Experience what it's like to be in lab full-time
- Gain experience
- Learn to work independently
- Improve presentation skills
- Improve reading & writing skills
- Professional development

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UCLA Programs

Undergraduate Research Center
www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu

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BISEP

Biomedical Sciences Enrichment Program

Program Description:

UCLA Session C

(6 weeks: Aug 7-Sept 15, 2017)

- Biotechnology Lecture & Laboratory
- Course on Reading/Writing Science
- Laboratory Visits
- Career Guidance
- Seminars & Workshops

Note:

No stipend/housing/parking

Eligibility:

- Rising sophomores
- Interested in Masters, PhD, or MD/PhD
- Underrepresented background
- Life science, chemistry or biochemistry major

- Must complete lab safety training

Application:

Available in April 2016
Contact: bisep@college.ucla.edu

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CARE SEM SPUR

CARE Science, Engineering, and Math Summer Research Program

Program Description:

June 25 – Sept 1, 2016 (10 weeks)

- Full-time in the lab
- Professional development seminars
- Workshops
- GRE prep class
- Poster presentation

$3000 + on-campus housing
(or **$5000** and no housing)

Deadline
March 15, 2016

Eligibility:

- *Must be in a lab already*
- Underrepresented background
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Rising junior or senior, GPA > 3.0
- Interested in PhD or dual degree

Application:

- Letter of recommendation from current faculty mentor
- Personal Statement
- Interview (by invitation)
- http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/caresemspurapplication.htm

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Amgen Scholars Program

Program Description:
June 19 – August 26, 2016
(10 weeks)
- Full-time in the lab
- Workshops
- Amgen Biotechnology Symposium
- GRE prep

Stipend:
$3600 + On-campus housing

Deadline
February 1, 2017

Eligibility:
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Sophomore, junior, or non-graduating senior, GPA > 3.2
- Interested in PhD or MD/PhD

Application:
- Personal statement
- Letter of Recommendation
- Faculty Mentor Request (**DO NOT need to be in a lab already!**)

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Amgen at other Universities

- Cal Tech
- Columbia University/Barnard College
- Harvard
- MIT
- National Institutes of Health
- Stanford
- UC Berkeley
- UCLA
- UCSF
- Washington University in St. Louis

http://www.amgenscholars.com

FEB 1, 2016 DEADLINE
(except Cal Tech: Feb. 15, 2016)

Program dates vary.

UC LEADS

Program Description:

3rd year - 4th year

- Prestigious 2 year program for Ph.D driven students

- Academic and financial support
    - GRE prep
    - Quarterly lunches with graduate deans
    - Journal club and leadership course
    - $20,000 given over the course of 2 years

Quarterly stipend: $1000

Deadline: February 15, 2017

Eligibility:

- Engineering/Physical Sciences major OR conducting research in this area
- Underrepresented background
- Rising junior standing (must be able to commit to 2 years)
- Interested in PhD or MD/PhD
- GPA > 3.0
- U.S. citizen/permanent resident

Application:

- Personal statement
- Letter of Recommendation
- https://my.ucla.edu/directLink.aspx?featureID=136&typeID=45

UC LEADS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA   LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE THROUGH ADVANCED DEGREES PROGRAM

B.I.G. Summer
(Bruins In Genomics)

Program Description:
June 20-Aug. 12, 2016
(8 Week Program)
- Full-time in the lab
- Workshops
- Weekly journal clubs
- Seminars
- Poster sessions
- Genomics & Systems Biology
- GRE prep

Stipend: limited availability

Deadline: **February 10, 2017**

Eligibility:
- At least 1 biology and 1 computer science course
- Knowledge of at least 1 programming language and at least 1 CS course
- GPA > 3.0
- Interested in obtaining a graduate degree

Application:
- Personal statement
- Letter of Recommendation (STEM faculty)
- Unofficial transcript
- Resume/CV
- Do not have to be in a lab already

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Medical Related Summer Programs

Student Stroke Team and Force

A student-run group headed by Dr. Starkman, a prominent physician in the field of emergency medicine and neurology.

Role in the ER

- Interview all potential stroke patients that enter the Emergency Department
  - Determine relevant symptoms
  - Inquire about previous medical history
- Contact Dr. Starkman directly and present pertinent information

Benefits of SST and SSF

- SRP 99 Credit (2 units)
- Hospital Volunteer Hours
- Clinical Research Experience
  - Work with many nationwide clinical trials
- Emergency Room Exposure
  - Work directly with patients
- Work side-by-side with UCLA's Top Neurologists
  - Even get to know them on a first-name basis!

Emergency Medicine Research Associates (EMRA)

- Volunteer research program that works in the ER at Ronald Reagan
- Assist Dr. Mower with the collection of clinical data

- SRP 99 credit, Hospital volunteer hours, Physician/patient interaction
- Opportunity to shadow residents
- Trauma observation privileges

- Applications open Spring quarter.

- Work at a mobile homeless clinic shadowing and helping med students and residents.

- Multi-hour weekly commitment

- One-on-one experience talking to patients and handling cases.

  – Website: http://www.mcp.ucla.edu/

Outside Programs

NSF REU

National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates

www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu

- Usually a 10-week program at another university (there are international opportunities!)
- Usually includes a stipend + housing

- Search by school, research area, program dates, etc.
- Eligibility, application process, and program components vary
- Deadlines are generally in February/March, so start looking **now**!

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Navigating the Application

Letters of Recommendation

1. Ask your PI. They can comment best on your abilities as a researcher.

    a. Your graduate student mentor can help your faculty mentor write the letter, but the letter **cannot** come from a graduate student alone. Have PI and graduate student co-sign the letter.

2. Ask a <u>professor</u> who knows you personally and can say more about you than what grade you got in their class. Need a *strong* letter.

    a. Provide them with your:
        i.   CV
        ii.   Personal statement
        iii. Research summary (if applicable)

Ask early—at least a month in advance. Expect to remind them the week/day before it's due as well.

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Personal Statement

Purpose: Convince the selection committee that you would excel in their program.

Questions to Consider:
- Why do I want a career in science?
- What past experiences do I have that could contribute to my time in this program?
- Why do I want to participate in this program?
- How do I fit into the program's aims/vision?

Don't be afraid to brag about yourself! But don't lie.
PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD!

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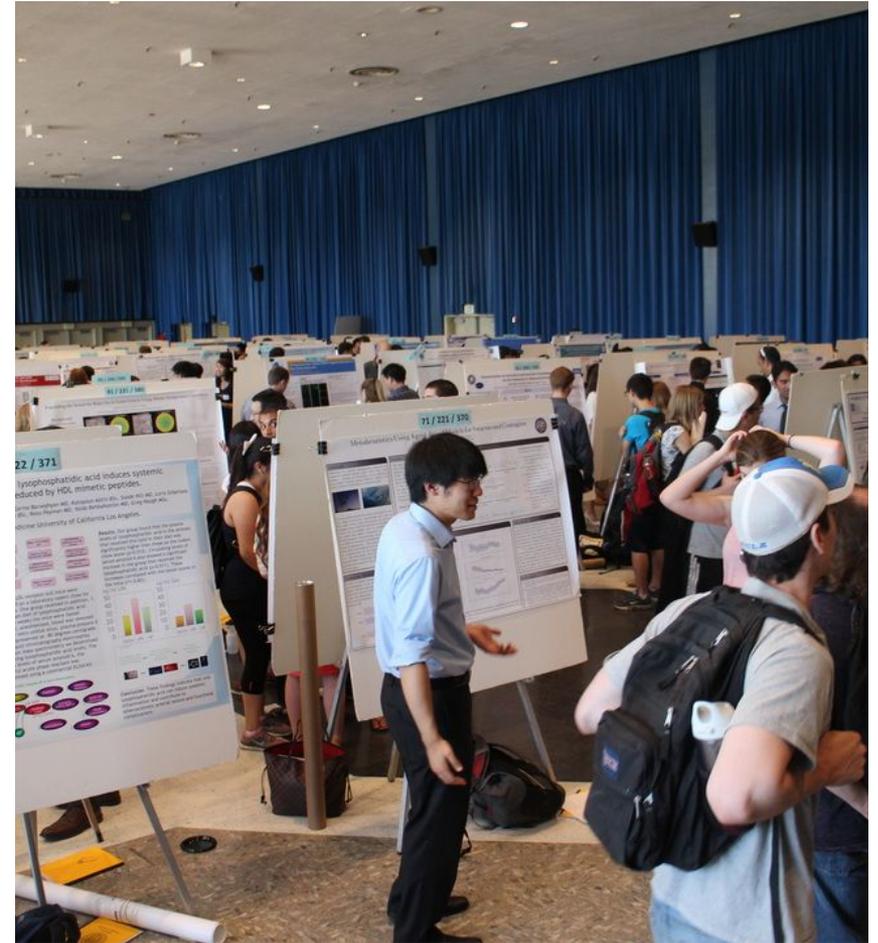Collaboration in Undergraduate Research Enrichment

The Interview

- Arrive prepared to talk about yourself.
  - Academic/professional experiences
  - Relevant personal background
  - Summary of research (if applicable)
- Learn about the program ahead of time. Be able to answer the question, "Why did you apply to this program?"
- Come with your own questions
- Be professional both in dress and demeanor.
  - Practice your handshake
  - Make eye contact
  - Stay engaged

Questions?

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program

- URFP scholarship supports students doing research for Winter and Spring quarters
- Receive scholarship of up to $2000
- Must enroll in HC101A, and minimum of 12 units, and SRP 99/199
- 2.5+ GPA required
- Must have faculty mentor

Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

- Junior level standing or higher
- Conduct research for 2 quarters as part of a 199, 198, or 196 course
- Complete a departmental honors thesis or comprehensive research project

- Junior Scholars receive an annual award of $3,000
- Senior Scholars receive an annual award of $5,000

Deadline: not out yet, expected June 2016