



## The REU FAQ

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- **RE - What???**

- (R)esearch (E)xperience for (U)ndergraduates = a program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to encourage promising Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students to experience research at the pre-baccalaureate level

- **How does the REU help me?**

- Research exposure is a great way to discover if you are interested in graduate school, and to hone your analytical skills no matter what path you take in your career
- REU is a prestigious and nationally recognized program which is helpful in building your resume
- REU programs can be a great way to gain experience even before tackling corporate or industry internships; REU can complement work experiences

- **What will I do at my REU?**

- Cutting edge research, working with other undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty Principal Investigators (PIs) to build critical thinking skills and introduce you to research techniques and practices.
- At the end of the REU term, students share research results in poster sessions, presentations, or conferences

- **When can I do an REU program in my academic track?**

- Most REU programs require completion of 30 credits and/or junior status

- **When are REU programs offered?**
  - Most are summer programs; 10 weeks long; usually from June till August
  
- **Where are REU programs offered?**
  - REU programs are offered on university campuses around the US and there are also international opportunities
  
- **Is housing provided?**
  - Yes, usually the REU provides housing and meals in campus facilities
  
- **Will I get paid?**
  - Yes, REU programs provide a stipend, usually \$350-\$500 weekly, for a total of \$3500-\$5000 payment for the summer
  - Usually the REU provides travel support (airfare, mileage reimbursement)
  
- **What areas of research are available?**
  - REU programs cover a wide range of topics in STEM
  - You can also search by **topic area** or **geographically**
  
- **When do I apply for REU opportunities?**
  - REU websites are updated in the fall prior to the program dates; applications are usually due starting around January 1 and most are due before April 1
  
- **What do I need to submit to apply for the REU program?**
  - Most applications request a resume and recommendation letters
  
- **How do I search for REU opportunities?**
  - Use the online link to the NSF REU site:
    - [http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu\\_search.cfm](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm)
  - Search by university- just use the school search box and 'REU'

**For more information please contact:**

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