Summer Opportunities Workshop

November 6, 2015
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Co-hosted by:
Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES)
Science Undergraduate Research Group (SURGe)

Presenters:
Lynda Gonzales (TIDES)
Eman Ghanem (FRI)
Melanie Hooper (Career Services)
Today’s agenda

• Finding an opportunity that’s right for you
• Student testimonials
• Creating a resume
• Student scenarios: What could be improved?
• Writing the personal statement
• What happens after you submit your application?
• Q&A
Finding an opportunity that’s right for you

- On campus
- Off campus/outside of UT
- Abroad
On Campus

• Typically assist on a faculty member’s project; carve out your own work as you advance
• Summer only or can be continuation of academic year position
• Usually starts as volunteer position, can lead to funded with time
• Goals for early/intro experience:
  – Make contacts
  – Get experience
  – Fine-tune your research interests
Resources for getting involved

• Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Info Sessions
• Undergraduate research listserves (OUR and CNS)
• EUREKA!
• Faculty members/instructors, TA’s, your peers, courses, advisors
• Web search

Not sure where to start?
1) Attend an OUR info session for step-by-step guidance on finding a project.
2) Come to CNS/TIDES walk-in advising in PAI 3.04.
   Tuesdays 1-3pm
   Fridays 10am-12pm
Example On-campus position

- **Project Title:** Bacteria Living in Bees
- **Faculty leader:** Nancy Moran, Dept. of Integrative Biology
- **Description:** Researching bacterial gut symbionts that live in bees, with the goal of understanding how they affect the health of their hosts. Involves growing bacterial cultures, inoculating bees with bacteria, and using molecular methods to characterize and manipulate the bacteria.
- **Hours:** at least 10 hours per week, and should plan to commit for at least 2 semesters
- **Application:** Contact lab coordinator to express interest in project.

Initially students start as unpaid volunteers. Those who perform well and are interested in staying in the lab usually transition to a paid student position after 5 months.
Did not Participate in the FRI...?  
Consider the Accelerated Research Initiative (ARI)  
Website: [https://cns.utexas.edu/tides/students/accelerated-research-initiative](https://cns.utexas.edu/tides/students/accelerated-research-initiative)

- Upper division and transfer students
- Join a participating FRI stream in the *summer*
- Continue with the stream to receive upper division research credit in the fall
Funding for research on campus

University-wide
• **Undergraduate Research Fellowships** (offered by Office of VP for Research)
  – Up to $1,000 to cover costs associated with research project (travel, supplies, software, equipment)
  – Joint or independent projects under supervision of UT research supervisor
  – Deadlines, Fall: Sept 17, 2015; Spring: Jan 22, 2016

CNS specific
• **TIDES Summer Research Funding** – Advanced Research Experiences
  – Prior research required (either summer or academic year)
  – $3,500 or $4,000 for 7-10 weeks full-time work in summer

Other
• Senate of College Councils **Undergraduate Research Grant**: $1,000 grant each fall and spring
• Office of Undergraduate Research **Scholarship for Research or Conference Travel**

**IMPORTANT**: Your programs, departments, other affiliations may have funding available for research and/or travel. For example, FRI, BDP, Honors, Plan II....
Summer programs off-campus/outside of UT

- Research or research internship programs with formal application process/firm deadlines
- Hosted at universities, institutes, agencies across the country
- Benefits:
  - Intensive, full-time summer experience
  - Make contacts
  - Explore career paths or grad school possibilities
  - Travel!
- Application “season” November - February
- Competitive
- Usually offer a generous stipend, often with support for travel/room and board
- Significant time commitment – full time for 10 weeks in the summer
Finding a program

- **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)** – database can be searched by area of interest or location (600+ programs)
- **Science.gov** – database of fellowships/internships in STEM
- **Pathways to Science** – similar, aimed at underrepresented
- Internships: links above; corporate websites (ex: **Merck**); professional organizations (ex: **ACS**)
- Pre-health professions: **Health Professions Office** list of summer programs
- Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES): **Summer Research webpage**
Program Highlight

UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Dallas

- **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**
- Eligible: Enrolled in an undergraduate science degree program and have completed your sophomore year
- PhD or MD/PhD interests in biomedical sciences
- Pursue individual research projects in the laboratories of Graduate School faculty members
- $4000 stipend; possible housing support.
- Competitive: about 75 students selected out of 1,000 applications
- Application deadline: February 9, 2016
NSF REU: University of Colorado at Boulder

• University of Colorado Mountain Research Station – participate in research in a dramatic mountain setting
• Ecology, Evolution and Behavior Field Research
• 10 weeks, $5,000 stipend, housing and meals provided (live in cabins!)
• Work on faculty research projects
• Interact with the team at the Mountain Research Station at both a professional and personal level
• Learn more about graduate school and a career in research
Research abroad

- Combine your passion for science with exploration of a new culture!
- Travel and live abroad
- Funded as part of a program
- Volunteer/on your own
- Second language not required

- **Pasteur Foundation Summer Internship Program** - in Paris
  - For summer after your junior year (completed three yrs of undergrad degree)
  - Placements at Institut Pasteur - dedicated to the study of biology, microorganisms, diseases, and vaccines
- **DAAD RISE** – various locations in Germany
  - biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering
  - Students must have completed 2 years of undergrad degree
- **LSAMP Summer Research Academy Abroad** – UT System Schools
  - 8 fellowships per year from System schools
  - $8,000 for 8-10 weeks in summer
Ready to submit

• Make sure your application is complete!
• Make sure it is submitted on time!
• Be prepared for problems
What happens after you submit an application...

• How are applicants selected?
  – Selection criteria
  – Looking for authenticity: demonstrate genuine interest
  – Well presented application packet

• What are your responsibilities?
  – To accept or decline in a timely manner
  – If you accept, commit! Participate 100%
Questions?

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