Summer Opportunities Workshop

November 11, 2016
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, Director for Student Programs (TIDES)
Stacia Rodenbusch, Director, Freshman Research Initiative (TIDES)
Our Student Experts

• Anthony Alaniz
• Jevon Chu
• Joe Espinoza
• Brianna Gonzalez
• Courtney Smith
• Luis Valencia
Today’s agenda

• Finding an opportunity that’s right for you
• Crafting the components of an application
• Students share experience and advice
• Q&A and networking
Trivia!
Finding an opportunity that’s right for you

- On campus
- Off campus/away from UT Austin
- Abroad
On Campus

- Assist on a faculty member’s project; work in a lab
- More independence as you advance
- Summer only or can be continuation of academic year position
- Volunteer or funded
- 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
- TIDES weekly walk-in advising
  - Tuesdays 1-3pm
  - Thursdays 10am-12noon
  - Or by appointment
- Undergraduate research listserves (OUR and CNS)
- EUREKA!
- Your network - faculty members/instructors, TA’s, your peers, courses, advisors
- Web search
Not sure where to start?

- Attend an OUR info session for step-by-step guidance on finding a project.
- Come to CNS/TIDES walk-in advising in PAI 3.04.
  
  Tuesdays 1-3pm
  Thursdays 10am-12pm
Funding for research on campus

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
  – Deadline: February 15, 2017

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, each Fall: mid-Sept, 2015; Spring: Jan 23, 2017

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....
Student Expert: Brianna Gonzalez
On-campus position

The Finkelstein Laboratory
Biophysical Studies of Molecular Machines
University of Texas at Austin
<table>
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<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td>• Volunteer in a Research Stream</td>
<td>• Upper division lab credit</td>
<td>• Continue research</td>
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<td>• Get started in research</td>
<td>• Independent Research</td>
<td>• Peer Mentor</td>
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**Accelerated Research Initiative (ARI) Summer Start**
A Research Stream is an undergraduate research group, lead by faculty and peer mentors!
ARI Spans the Disciplines of CNS
28 Unique Streams
Summer programs - outside UT Austin

• Research or research internship programs with formal application process and firm deadlines
• Competitive
• Hosted at universities, institutes, agencies across the country
• Significant time commitment – full time for 8-10 weeks
• Benefits:
  – Intensive summer experience without distractions
  – Make contacts
  – Explore career paths or grad school possibilities
  – Travel!
• Usually offer a generous stipend, often with support for travel/room and board
• Application season November - February
Finding a program

- **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)** – database can be searched by area of interest or location (600+ programs)
- **STEMUndergrads.science.gov** – database of federal fellowships/internships in STEM
- **Pathways to Science** – similar, aimed at underrepresented
- Internships: links above; corporate websites (ex: [Merck](https://www.merck.com)); professional organizations (ex: [ACS](https://www.acs.org))
- Pre-health professions: [Health Professions Office](https://www.hpothepathways.com) list of summer programs
- Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES): [Summer Research webpage](https://www.tides.org)
Student Expert: Anthony Alaniz
Summer research program

Simeone Lab
Translational Oncology Program
University of Michigan Medical School
Research abroad

• Combine your passion for science with exploration of a new culture!
• Travel and live abroad
• Funded or 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

Find more programs here: CNS Research and Internships Abroad
Student Expert: Luis Valencia
Research abroad

Research Supervisor - Dr. Andreas Marx
Universität Konstanz; Konstanz, Germany

Research Internships in Science & Engineering program (RISE) offered by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Trivia!
1. Think of two experiences you have had that influenced your interest in research or helped you develop a skill or strength. Note: this could be a challenge you overcame.

2. Write these down.

3. Take turns sharing with a neighbor, discuss your experiences for 2 min.

4. Choose one experience and list the skills you developed, techniques you learned, and ways that you demonstrated your strengths through that position.
What’s your plan?

1. What is a longer-term goal you would like to achieve that research could help with?
2. Write it down.
3. Take 2 min. to share with a neighbor: how will a research experience help you achieve that goal?
How to craft a Personal Statement

Hint: You just did!

1. Tell a story! Paint a mental picture of who you are.
2. Use specific anecdotes and examples of your experience to show how you are a good fit for the opportunity.
3. Make it clear that you understand the opportunity by referring to the program description or specific faculty who are involved.
4. Explain how this opportunity will help you achieve your goals and future plans.
5. Write clearly. Ask several people to proof-read your work.

Use the resources at the University Writing Center!
Are all these recommendation letters from your mother?
When you think about approaching faculty for recommendation letters, what do you think is important to remember?

- Select someone you think will be supportive
- Remind them of your relationship (you like their course. . .)
- Ask *before* you list them as a reference
- Ask for if they can write a supportive letter
- Waive your right to read the letter
- Provide necessary materials including more info about you
- Allow enough time (at least two weeks, a month is better)
- Send a thank you note
Using the criteria we listed, what do you think of this message?

Hey Dr.-----:

My name is -----. I was in your CH 301 class 2 years ago. You might remember me. I would like to ask for a recommendation letter for my application to a summer research position.

Thank you

Student A
Dear Dr.-----

I hope this email finds you well. My name is ---. I was in your CH 301 class two years ago. I enjoyed that class very much, and I am writing to ask if you would write a letter of recommendation on my behalf. I am applying for.....

During the past couple of years, I have been....

For your convenience and more information, I have attached my resume. I will be glad to meet with you in person to discuss the letter and the opportunities I am considering.

Sincerely,

Student B
Recap

• Personal statement*
• Letter of recommendation*
• Research description (if applicable; crafted with guidance from research supervisor)
• Resume/CV
• Transcript
Resume Resources - CNS Career Services
PAI 5.03

- On-line templates and examples
- Step-by-step instruction
- Events:
  - Resume Basics Presentation: learn how to create a resume
  - Resumania: quick, 15-minute resume reviews
- Walk-In Appointments, Tues/Wed/Thurs, 3-4:30pm
Trivia!
Now what...?
Ready to submit

• Make sure your application is complete.
  – It’s okay to send a gentle reminder to your recommender.

• Make sure it is submitted on time!
  – Give yourself a deadline one day earlier.

• Be prepared for problems
What happens after you submit an application...

• What are your responsibilities?
  – To accept or decline in a timely manner
• If you accept, commit! Participate 100%
  – Valuable relationships
  – Building your network
  – Future letters of recommendation
Student Expert: Joe Espinoza
Advanced research

Research Supervisor Dr. Lauren DePue
University of Texas at Austin
Contact

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Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science  
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**Walk-in Advising in PAI 3.04**  
Tuesdays 1-3pm  
Thursdays 10am-12pm