Finding an Opportunity that is Right For You

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Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES)
Summer Research on Campus

- Assist on a faculty member’s project
- Usually no formal application process
- Volunteer or funded
- Goals for early/intro experience:
  - Make contacts
  - Get experience
- Keep in mind:
  - May lead to more permanent work and possibly a funded position
  - Allows you to fine-tune your research interests
  - Provides the experience necessary to take next steps
- Resources:
  - UT lists- Undergrad-Research Mailing list
  - EUREKA!
  - Personal Connections
Example Volunteer Position: from EUREKA

- **Volunteer at UT** – Fire Research - Vegetation Surveys, Native Grasses and Wildflowers of Central Texas

- **Job description/ requirements:** We are training volunteers to help in our on-site land management studies in which we look at the effects of prescribed fire and mowing on plant communities. We will be walking from plot to plot and spending a great deal of time kneeling down, often in tall grass.
  - UT Student
  - Work in small teams
  - Attend one four-hour training class

- **Location:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- **Application:** Contact volunteer coordinator or survey coordinator to express interest in project.
Advanced Summer Research on Campus

• **New for 2015:** Funding through TIDES!
  – Applicants must have already completed at least one prior undergraduate research experience (either summer or academic year).
  – Support is for a full-time research placement, requiring 35-40 hours per week for 7-10 weeks, depending on award amount.
  – Two stipend levels are available for summer 2015:
    • $3,500 for 7 weeks
    • $4,000 for 8-10 weeks
  – Application link found on [CNS Research Funding Resources](#) page
• Other funded undergraduate research programs on campus, however many slots are given to students who come from outside UT Austin.
Summer Research Programs – Outside Austin/UT

• Formal programs with application process/firm deadlines
• Goals:
  – Get experience
  – Make contacts/explore grad school possibilities
  – Travel!
• Application “season” November - February
• Highly competitive
• Usually funded, often with support for travel/room & board
• Significant time commitment
Finding a program:

- NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) – db can be searched by area of interest or location (600+ programs)
- Science.gov – db of fellowships/internships in STEM
- Pathways to Science – similar, aimed at underrepresented
- Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES): Summer Research webpage
- Research Internships: Corporate websites; government websites
- Pre-med, pre-dent: Health Professions Office
Program Highlight

UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

• **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**
• Eligible: Enrolled in an undergraduate science degree program and have completed your **sophomore year**
• PhD or MD/PhD interests
• Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate science degree program and have completed their sophomore year.
• $4000 stipend; possible housing support.
• About 75 students selected; about 1,000 applications
• Application deadline: February 9, 2015
Example Research Internship

- **Title:** Native Trout Conservation Intern
- **Agency:** National Park Service
- **Location:** Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
- **May 18 – August 9, 2015**
- **Description:**
  - Participate as a team member for the Native Fish Conservation Program at Yellowstone National Park, assisting with cutthroat trout preservation and restoration, removing nonnative fish, monitoring lakes and streams for fish, macroinvertebrates, and/or water quality. You’ll also conduct applied research aimed at conservation of cutthroat trout, and assist with lab processing of samples, data entry and verification.
  - **Source:** The Student Conservation Association
Opportunities abroad

• Combine your passion for science with exploration of a new culture!
• Travel and live abroad
• Highly competitive
• Funded
• Second language not required

• Examples:
  – 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
  – NanoJapan IREU - various locations in Japan
    • open to freshman and sophomore engineering and physics students from universities nationwide with interests in nanotechnology
  – DAAD RISE – various locations in Germany
    • biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering
    • Students must have completed 2 years of undergrad degree
What happens after you submit an application...

• How are applicants selected?
  – Selection criteria/Purpose of the program
  – Looking for authenticity – real information

• What are your responsibilities?
  – To accept or decline
  – Go if you accept!