CNS Texas Excellence in Jobs and Service (TEJAS) Workshop: Finding a Research Placement

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All of this information is available online!

Step-by-step instructions to finding research placements. (we will review these now in this workshop)

TEJAS information.
Why should I try research?

- Learn by experience
- Skill building
- Build your network
- Knowledge creation
- Determine if research is for you
- Learn more about graduate school
## Important dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Mid-May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>Early July</th>
<th>Mid-July &amp; Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Interest survey</td>
<td>• Financial Aid services will help us determine eligibility</td>
<td>• Notify eligible students on list • Application opens <em>(must have a research placement)</em></td>
<td>• Applications are ranked and selected</td>
<td>• Offers made • Register for TEJAS seminar course <em>(new for TEJAS)</em> • Start research placement</td>
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<td>• Get your name on the list!</td>
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Finding a research placement: **Step 1**

**Explore your interests**

- What are you interested in?
- What drew you to science in the first place?
- Are there courses or topics you want to know more about?
Finding a research placement: **Step 2**

**Come up with 3-5 professors you want to contact.**

- Your network – professors/instructors, TA’s, your peers, courses, advisors
- Try the [EUREKA!](#) search tool
- Browse [CNS departmental](#) professor profiles
- Join the [CNS experiential learning listserv](#)

**Search for 1 now!**
Finding a research placement: **Step 3**

Do some preliminary research on the list of professors you made

- Visit their home webpage and scan their current research projects
- Find a recent publication of theirs, and scan the article (these are often on their lab webpage, or can be found using tools such as [Google Scholar](http://google.com/scholar))
The Juenger Laboratory - CNS Sites - The University of Texas at Austin
https://sites.cns.utexas.edu/juenger_lab/home

Tom Juenger is an Associate Professor in the Section of Integrative Biology at the University of Texas at Austin.
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The Juenger Laboratory
Department of Integrative Biology

News

04.05.2019
Graduate student Albina led manuscript on the genetic architecture of shoot and root divergence in P. hallii is online

03.24.2019
Check out our recent Plant, Cell & Env paper on gene expression variations in P. hallii caused by day length and diurnal patterns

12.19.2018
Panicum hallii genome paper published in Nature Communications.

01.18.15
Podcast on Arabidopsis research in the Juenger lab released

01.01.15
Overcoming Small Minirhizotron Datasets Using Transfer Learning
14 days ago - Minirhizotron technology is widely used for studying the development of roots. Such systems collect visible-wavelength color images of plant roots in situ by scanning an imaging system within a clear tube driven into the soil. Automated analysis of root systems ...
80 Related articles All 2 versions

Transgenerational effects of inter-ploidy cross direction on reproduction and F2 seed development of Arabidopsis thaliana F1 hybrid triploids
RC Bravo, S Swamidotto, TE Juenger - Plant reproduction, 2019 - Springer
16 days ago - Key message Reproduction in triploid plants is important for understanding polyploid population dynamics. We show that genetically identical reciprocal F1 hybrid triploids can display transgenerational agenic mutations in response to F2 seed development ...
80 Related articles All 3 versions

Root Identification in Minirhizotron Imagery with Multiple Instance Learning
28 days ago - In this paper, multiple instance learning (MIL) algorithms to automatically perform root detection and segmentation in minirhizotron imagery using only image-level labels are proposed. Root and soil characteristics vary from location to location, thus ...
80 Related articles All 2 versions

Complex interactions between day-length and diurnal patterns of gene expression drive photoperiodic responses in a perennial C4 grass
L Zhang, S Razzaque, TE Juenger - Plant, cell & ..., 2019 - Wiley Online Library
29 days ago - Photoperiod is a key environmental cue affecting flowering and biomass traits in plants. Key components of the photoperiodic flowering pathway have been identified in many species, but surprisingly few studies have globally examined the diurnal rhythm of ...
80 Related articles All 3 versions
Transgenerational effects of inter-ploidy cross direction on reproduction and F2 seed development of Arabidopsis thaliana F1 hybrid triploids

Key message

Reproduction in triploid plants is important for understanding polyploid population dynamics. We show that genetically identical reciprocal F1 hybrid triploids can display transgenerational epigenetic effects on viable F2 seed development.
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Find their research website and/or a recent publication of theirs now!
Finding a research placement: **Step 3**

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- Visit their home webpage and scan their current research projects
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Prepare for contact

- Plan to contact each of them separately
hey professor,

i am looking to do research to help with my med school applications next year.
can i work in your lab?

i can work mondays from 3:15-4:00 and thursdays 6-7 starting next week.

thanks,
joe
Finding a research placement: **Step 4**

**Compose an email**
- Use professional, formal language
- Introduce yourself
- Provide background & qualifications
- Show interest in their research, not just personal gains
- Express desire to get involved
- Include formal signature with contact information
To: betty.biologist@utexas.edu  
Subject: Interest in your antibiotics research

Dear Professor Biologist,

I am a sophomore molecular biology major here at UT Austin. Last semester my BIO 327Q instructor, Prof. Professorson, had us read your 2016 antibiotics microbial synthesis paper and I was really interested in your field of research.

I am interested in participating in research work while here at UT and was hoping you might be willing to meet with me to discuss possible opportunities in your laboratory.

I have not yet done formal research work. However, in my laboratory classes, I have been very successful in bench work and my BIO 233M instructor said I follow protocols well. I have a 3.8 GPA and all A’s in my microbiology courses. Attached is my resume with more details on my background. I am a hard worker and would be happy to make a multi-year commitment to work in your group, should you find I am perform to your standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this meeting request. I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,
Joseph B. Researcher
Subject line: Seeking Undergraduate Research Opportunity

Dear Dr. ______,

My name is __________, and I am a ________ year _______ major interested in conducting research related to _______________. I have taken _________ and ____________.

I have read your recently published articles on ______________ and find them very interesting. I’m especially intrigued by ______________.

Would it be possible to meet with you to further discuss your research and my possible involvement on the project? I am generally free _________ and _________ afternoons during the week.

Sincerely,

__________

Try composing a draft email now!
Additional line for you email...

Feel free to mention that you are applying for a TEJAS award.

“I am currently inquiring about my eligibility—and intend to apply—for a special work-study award, which I will hear back about during the summer.”
Finding a research placement: **Step 5**

**Prepare for an interview:**
- Why do you want to get involved in research?
- What is it that made you reach out to our research group?
- How much time can you commit to research? (hrs/wk, number of semesters)
- Do you have any additional questions for me?
Recap

1. Explore your interests
2. Come up with 3-5 professors/labs
3. Do some preliminary research & plan for contact
4. Compose an email
5. Prepare for an interview
Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science
College of Natural Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin
PAI 3.04
Another example: Before

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 a year 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 year, I have been....

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

Sincerely,

Student B