Example Workshop Handout Design
IS471 Final Assignment

HOW TO E-MAIL PROFESSORS ABOUT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Workshop: Finding Undergraduate Research Opportunities
Instructor: Sabrina Abdulla
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University of Illinois Library
August 2021

IS UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FOR YOU?

If you are interested in undergraduate research, but unsure if it is the right fit for you, you can revisit some of the advantages and disadvantages of the experience below. As a reminder, you aren't *required* to do undergraduate search to get the most out of your undergraduate experience! As with anything else, you can direct any further questions you have to abdulla3@illinois.edu.

PRO'S	*CON'S*
▪ Different way of learning material	▪ Not for everyone, and you don't have to do it
▪ Requirement for most PhD, some masters programs	▪ Not all jobs in STEM require it
▪ Leg up for industry positions	▪ Helps for med/health school applications but not technically required
▪ Great to try it out and see if you even like research	▪ Would it help more than hurt?
	▪ Not usually paid, big time commitment

IS IT TOO LATE TO START UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

- No!

  Freshmen-Juniors: you are in perfect position for undergraduate research!

- Different labs have different preferences regarding experience, but most labs really like students they can train and have working for a couple years.

Seniors: you can get position as research assistant or can apply to post-baccalaureate research programs for long term positions

- Some labs open to letting seniors start research and hiring them after, a little more work overall but your librarian instructor is happy to help!
- Some labs are totally fine with just having a student do research for their final year.

RESEARCH AT UIUC

Molecular and Cellular Biology	**Chemistry**	**Physics**	**Food Science & Human Nutrition**	**Plant Biology**	**Computer Science**	**Animal Sciences**
Material Science and Engineering	**Applied Health Sciences**	**Integrative Biology**	**Crop Sciences**	**Psychology**	**Sociology**	**Statistics**

** This is just a starting point! If you are interested in a subject not included here, try the google search " *-insert department-* UIUC research" **

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

While we don't have time to cover these topics in this particular session, there is a lot of good information about undergraduate research that can help you out! Feel free to reach out about any of this at the end of this workshop or e-mail me at any point at abdulla3@illinois.edu.

FINDING FUNDING& FUNDED OPPORTUNITIES

- Office of Undergraduate Research: Research Funding Opportunities

Summer funded programs:

- Pathways to Science: Sanford Program for Undergraduate Research
- NSF Programs: REU Programs
- NIH Post-bacc programs: PREP
- Also check your specific department undergraduate research pages for specific funding opportunities!

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CHECKLIST FOR YOUR LETTER



INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- Who are you? (What year, major, etc.)
- Why are you interested in undergraduate research?
- What will you get out of it?



WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED?

What will you get out of this research experience?

- As an undergrad you aren't expected to completely understand what is happening, but you should show that you tried!



WHY THIS RESEARCH/PROFESSOR?

What stuck out to you about their research?



SUGGEST A MEETING

- One-on-one (meet directly with PI)
- AND/OR offer to attend a lab meeting



THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME

Formalities – let them know you look forward to hearing from them!



PROOFREAD

- Double check your checklist
- Have someone read it for you if you can