SOURCE

All About Finding Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavor Opportunities

Sheila Pedigo, PhD, Director
Padmini Coopamah Waldron, Ph.D., Associate Director
SOURCE

Purpose

To assist and prepare students to engage in research and creative endeavors, and to guide and, where appropriate, to supplement institutional, departmental, and divisional work with this effort.
SOURCE

Resources for Students

● Assistance in Finding Opportunities
  - Academic Year
  - Summer: here, around the country and abroad

● Intersections: SOURCE Symposium & Poster Session (AY 2017-18)
  - December 8 and April 20

● Funding
  - Summer Funding
  - Capstone Resource Grants
  - Travel Grants

● Educational Information Sessions
  - Responsible Conduct of Research
  - How To Make a Poster
  - How To Present Research
  - And Many More!

● Discussions
Undergraduate Research

Getting Started

Why
When
Qualities Needed
Compensation
How
Undergraduate Research

Why?
Undergraduate Research

Why

Case IS a research intensive university

Integrate academic theory with research experience

Explore a college major/graduate study

Prepare for Senior Capstone

Build a professional network and establish mentoring relationships

Enhance valuable workplace skills, such as verbal and written communication, teamwork, and adaptability
Undergraduate Research

When

Academic Year
Summer: On or Off Campus
Undergraduate Research

Compensation

Volunteer

Funded Positions

Academic Credit
Undergraduate Research

Qualities Needed/Desired

Curiosity
Creativity
Self-motivation
Ability to work independently
Ability to work as a team member
Initiative
Patience
Persistence
Passion
Dependability
Reliability
Undergraduate Research

How To Find A Position

● Learn who is doing what
● Connections with faculty, staff, and friends
● Explore the SOURCE website
  - *We have a list of available positions*
  - *For Summer: the SOURCE Website provides info about positions on- and off- campus, around the country, and internationally!*
● Think broadly: Most science FY students are at SOM & CC
● Review websites of all possible departments
● Lab assistant positions
Undergraduate Research

Making The Initial Contact

- Must be brief
- Most important: Know about the research
- Express interest in learning about the research
- Discuss the number of hours per week
- Discuss compensation expectations
  - Mostly volunteer at first... but with work-study can get paid
- Must be succinct
- Attach a resume
- Ask for a meeting
Greetings Dr. Mizutani,

I hope your summer has been going well! My name is First Last and I am a rising sophomore at Case Western planning to major in nutritional biochemistry. I'm currently a volunteer at University Hospitals for Rainbow Babies and am also interested in finding a research position for the fall semester. I noticed that the research you are conducting regards gene expression and have been drawn to your studies because I want to be involved in the field of developmental biology and genetics.

Your research involving the Drosophila melanogaster is particularly interesting because I have recently learned about this organism in Biology lab and have also been learning about gene expression and it would be exciting to apply what I’ve been learning in class to this field of study. Since this type of investigation concerns important aspects of biology and its future, it would be exciting to be a part of your investigations.

If you are looking for any undergraduates to assist you with your research, I would greatly appreciate it if you considered me as a candidate. I am not looking for a stipend but rather to be engaged in and a part of a research team where I can learn and be involved in a topic that intrigues me. I am able to work up to 8 hours a week, but if need be I can find time to work more. I have also attached my résumé. Thank you for your time.

Best Wishes,
First Last
Undergraduate Research

Interview/Meeting

● Be on time! [i.e. 10 minutes early]
  - Make sure you know ahead of time where you are going!

● Business casual

● Shake hands & introduce yourself

● Be prepared: Know about the research

● Share your desire (and enthusiasm) for the work
Office/Staff Information

Sears (Library) 451
source@case.edu

Sheila Pedigo, Director
Padmini Waldron, Associate Director
Bethany Pope, Department Assistant

SOURCE Website
Thank You!

Questions?