Finding Off-Campus Summer Research Opportunities in Chemistry (and Related Disciplines)

Nov. 15, 2019
General Info

• Typically 8 – 10 weeks in a research lab working on a project with a mentor
• Stipends vary, ~$4500 - $5000 for the summer (sometimes travel and housing is provided)
• At universities or sometimes companies
• Summer programs often include community-building with other students, seminars, info sessions
• End of program often includes poster presentation that you can also give at Carleton’s Research Celebration in October.
Who Should Apply

• Any student interested in
  • Learning whether they enjoy research.
  • A potential future in science.
  • Going to graduate school.
  • Going to Medical School (especially MD/PhD)

• International students will need to do an extra course (3 credit) after returning – discuss with OIIIL and department faculty
What Not To Worry About

• The start date of the programs as advertised (apply first, negotiate after you are accepted if they start before our term ends).

• Specific knowledge of exactly what you want to do. This is about getting research experience, not about knowing your future path in detail.

• GPA – apply no matter what. Don’t make the decision for the program, let them do it.

• Having prior research experience. These programs are about getting it, not necessarily having had it.

• Citizenship status (with caveats)
  • If the site doesn’t give clear info, ask them
  • Ask a faculty member to inquire for you
When and How to Apply

• As soon as programs are available
• Typical deadlines are ~now – March
• Winter Break is the right time to start
• Apply to lots of program (~10) at a variety of types of institutions in a variety of geographical areas

• You will need:
  • Personal statement
  • Transcript
  • Letters of recommendation (~2) from STEM faculty
How and When to Ask for Letters

• Identify faculty members who know you as more than just a face in the crowd (you had one or more classes with, lab with, or other interactions).

• Ask for letters as soon as possible (before winter break!), your application list need not be final.

• Create a list of programs and deadlines to give to your letter writers (emphasize when the first deadline is). Include forms and envelopes if needed.

• Provide other requested info (transcript, draft personal statement, interests, etc.)

• Applications typically ask for who letter writers are, and they prompt for submission.
Where To Find Opportunities

- **The Weekly Beaker** (click the research tab)
  - Updated weekly on Wednesdays
  - If you are not signed up, sign up on sheet to be added.
- The **Department Webpage – Research sub-page**
- **National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites**
- **American Chemical Society Listing of Research Experiences, Internships, and Co-ops in Chemistry and Related Fields**
- **UROP, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program: a general listing of many nation-wide undergraduate research opportunities maintained by the University of California, Irvine**
- **The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**
- **American Chemical Society, Directory of Graduate Research** (Click on the REU Search link)
- **Científico Latino**
- Chemistry Department Resources:
  - Discussions with faculty
  - Attending Department seminars (and lunches with visitors)
Other Ways To Get Funding

• **Kolenkow-Reitz Fellowships**
  • Deadline: likely end of winter term
  • Funds you to work in a specific lab/program off campus. You must have a connection with a PI in order to apply.

• **Career Center Internship Funding**
  • Deadline: likely early spring term

• **Summer Science Fellows**
  • Deadline: early winter term
  • Only first-years and sophomores can apply
  • Funds two summers of research at Carleton or elsewhere
Questions?

• Feel free to talk with any chemistry faculty member for advice.
• Talk to faculty in other departments if you are interested in research in other disciplines.

Part 2, On-Campus Positions:
Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, 3:30pm,
Evelyn M. Anderson 121 – We will discuss on-campus summer research opportunities with chemistry faculty as well as application procedures.