



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REU SITE:

Research Experience for Undergraduates in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology

2012 dates: June 12th - August 18th

The program

The Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University of Chicago is at the forefront of research in molecular mechanisms underlying cell biology and organismal development. Current faculty work on fundamental problems in biology using a wide range of model systems including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, plants, nematode worms, fruit flies, fish and mice. With funding from the National Science Foundation, the Department offers an exciting opportunity for talented undergraduates to acquire experience in research. This program is designed for students who are interested in attending graduate school and pursuing a career in science. MGCB Summer Internships allow students to devote themselves to research projects, working in collaboration with graduate students or postdoctoral fellows, to address important problems in biology.

Interns will be hosted by research laboratories in the department, most of which are housed in the Cummings Life Sciences Center, with several laboratories in a nearby building. Interns will have full access to the advanced instrumentation available in the host laboratories as well as in a large set of superb core facilities, including advanced light and electron microscopy, next generation DNA sequencing, and a wide range of biophysical approaches.

In addition to research, interns will participate in workshops on communicating scientific results and ethics in research. For a schedule of activities at: <http://mgcb.bsd.uchicago.edu/reu>

Location

Chicago is one of the most vibrant of American cities, particularly exciting in the summer with a succession of free music festivals. The University is located in the neighborhood of Hyde Park. Hyde Parkers have easy access via public transportation to the cultural riches of downtown Chicago, as well as enjoying beautiful local parks along the Chicago lakeshore. REU interns will be housed in a modern dormitory that is two blocks from the research laboratories and a twenty minute walk to Promontory Point, a favorite spot for summer barbecues and lake swimming.

Research Projects

Based on individual student's preferences, each intern will be assigned a faculty mentor and will design a research project in close consultation with that mentor. Active participation in that research project will be the main focus of the summer. Students will be expected to participate in research for at least 40 hours per week for the full 10 weeks, and may not enroll in classes or hold outside employment during the term of their internship.

Students will also be exposed to the types of research being pursued in the department during weekly lunchtime seminars given by faculty.

To learn more about projects in which participants might be involved, view the list of MGCB REU faculty trainers at: <http://mgcb.bsd.uchicago.edu/reu>

Each student will receive a \$5,000 stipend plus travel expenses to and from the University. In addition, housing will be provided, with comfortable accommodations within a modern and convenient University of Chicago undergraduate dormitory.

Eligibility

This program is limited to students whose home institution is not the University of Chicago. Participants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States and have a strong interest in research. The MGCB REU program is designed to encourage and enhance the participation of students from schools without large research programs and from members of minorities currently underrepresented in the sciences. Applicants currently enrolled in their junior year of college are preferred, but in exceptional cases students in earlier years will be considered.

Application and notification deadlines

Applications may be found at <http://mgcb.bsd.uchicago.edu/reu>. The application deadline is February 1, 2012.

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