2017 UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate & Graduate Research Booklet
Summer 2017

Dear Student,

Thank you for participating in the UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (SPUR). These programs are intended to prepare, motivate, encourage and support students who want to learn more about the graduate school experience and possibly pursue academic careers in teaching and research. As a participant, you will become immersed in a research project, working one-on-one with faculty, graduate student and postdoctoral mentors. You will also learn first-hand about graduate programs at UCLA and develop a valuable network of contacts who can support and assist you in applying to graduate school. We strongly encourage you to consider applying to UCLA for your graduate studies!

I hope that you enjoy your time here and take advantage of the many recreational and cultural activities on and around our extraordinary campus. Please do not hesitate to contact a Program Coordinator if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance to you.

With best wishes for a productive and rewarding summer,

Robin L. Garrell
Vice Provost for Graduate Education &
Dean, Graduate Division
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Introduction

The UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (SPUR) Booklet is intended to provide detailed information about the programs’ design, campus facilities and amenities. Included is information about workshops, program scheduling, individual program descriptions and sample schedules from a previous year’s programs. The Booklet is intended to serve only as a guide and is not a comprehensive description of all policies and procedures of the program. **Individual Programs have final discretion on all decisions and policies.**

The UCLA SPUR programs run conjointly to expose participants to a myriad of learning and research opportunities. Interaction with intellectual peers from a variety of disciplines provides a more academically enriching environment. The common goal of the UCLA SPUR is to prepare participants for the graduate school experience. Participation in all of the programs requires a full-time commitment. Students are not to work nor enroll in class(es) during their 8- or 10-week program.

The program begins Sunday, June 25, 2017 and ends Saturday, August 19, 2017 (8-week program) or Friday, September 1, 2017 (10-week program). All participants living in on-campus housing are expected to arrive for check-in between 4:00pm and 6:00pm on Sunday, June 25, 2017. Check-out of the program will be conducted between 8:00am and 11:00am on Saturday, August 19, 2017 (8-week program) or Friday, September 1, 2017 (10-week program). All participants living on- or off-campus will have orientation with their respective programs the morning of Monday, June 26, 2017.

Although these programs are run collectively and have significant crossover, participants will have rather unique experiences.

The individual summer programs are:

- Amgen Scholars Program
- Brain Research Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (BRI-SURE)
- Bruins in Genomics (BIG) Summer Research Program
- California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program
- CARE Science, Engineering and Mathematics (SEM) Summer Research Program
- HBCU – The Diversity Project
- HBCU – Evolutionary Medicine
- Integrated and Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program (i2URP)
- Medical Imaging Informatics: Research in Informatics Summer Experience (MII-RISE)
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Writing and Research Training Program
- Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC)
- Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Undergraduates (Physics and Astronomy REU)
- Summer Nursing Program
- Summer Programs for Undergraduate Research: Life and Biomedical Sciences (SPUR-LABS)
- University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UC LEADS)
- The UCLA, Howard, Clark-Atlanta, Spelman Summer Research and Admissions Pathways Program
- The UCLA-HBCU Research Program in Developing Earthquake Resilient Residential Communities
- UCLA NeuroScholars
Overview
The following is a description of the workshops, events, facilities and amenities made available to participants of the UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (UCLA SPUR). Applicants should carefully review the information before applying to any of the programs to determine whether UCLA is an appropriate match. Also included are the policies and procedures of participation in the program. You may indicate up to two program choices on the online application.

A Typical Week
Participants will be engaged in a variety of research projects and will each have slightly unique schedules. The following is a general guide to assist applicants in understanding the structure and schedule of the UCLA SPUR, which is subject to change during the actual program. Described below is a typical day, which could programmatically be the most heavily scheduled day within the week. All other days are reserved for independent study, library time, etc. It is the responsibility of the participant to effectively manage their time. Schedules are provided in advance indicating deadline dates, event dates, workshop times and dates. Libraries and computer labs operate on reduced hours during the summer. The UCLA SPUR strongly recommends participants access these resources during the day.

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<th>Sample Summer Program Schedule</th>
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<th>Sample Schedule: CSU Pre-Doctoral Scholars</th>
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<th>Sample Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM Programs including Nursing)</th>
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Scholastic and Practical Experience

The programs feature regular seminars on academic career opportunities, standardized test preparation, writing and research skills and strategies for enhancing success in applying to graduate school. Also scheduled are opportunities for informal discussion with UCLA graduate students as well as other cultural and educational activities.

The objective of the programs is to help prepare, motivate, encourage and support students who wish to learn more about the graduate school experience and possibly pursuing an academic career in teaching and research. The following is a list of some of the seminars offered in previous summers.

Applying to Graduate School
This 1–2 hour seminar provides participants with information and techniques for preparing for and applying to graduate programs. They will learn what academic preparation is necessary and how to research and identify compatible graduate programs.

Career Options
This is a 1–2 hour discussion on various career options for PhDs. Participants are provided with statistical information based on UCLA graduates.

Curriculum Vita
This is a 1–2 hour seminar on preparing a curriculum vita (academic resume). Participants will learn how to effectively document skills, accomplishments and research experience.

Funding Graduate School
This is a 1-2 hour discussion on the funding opportunities available for graduate school. Participants will be provided with resources and information to research appropriate fellowships and scholarships. Participants will also be presented with techniques to enhance the success of their applications.

Graduate Student Panel
This is a 1–2 hour discussion on the graduate school experience from the perspective of current UCLA graduate students. The graduate student panel will provide honest and open information on identifying appropriate graduate programs, selecting a dissertation committee and life as a graduate student at UCLA.

GRE Preparation Course
(Course materials included.) This 18-hour course includes modules on the verbal, quantitative, and writing components of the GRE. Diagnostic testing is incorporated into the program to help the student best determine their level of preparedness. This course usually meets once a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm for 8 weeks. Scheduling is subject to change, please check with your program coordinator.

Personal Statement
This 1–2 hour seminar is designed to give participants writing tips and the conceptual framework needed to write strong personal statements for graduate school, fellowships and other grant applications.

Preparing a Conference Presentation
This 1–2 hour workshop teaches effective public-speaking skills, offers tips on giving slide presentations and explains the mistakes commonly made by presenters. Participants will be given the opportunity to practice presenting a small part of their research to others and receive feedback to improve their presentation skills.
Research Proposal
This 1–2 hour seminar provides general guidelines on preparing a research proposal. The workshop attempts to address discipline-specific guidelines.

Using PowerPoint
This 1–2 hour presentation provides a general overview on using PowerPoint to prepare a conference presentation. Attendance at this workshop will be optional and by reservation only.

Weekly Meeting with Current Graduate Students
Weekly meetings are scheduled to provide additional academic support to participants. Participants discuss their work and provide peer feedback on the proposals, outlines, presentations, etc. These workshops are run by Current Graduate Students.

Participants work independently under the guidance of their faculty mentors. The following assignments are required components of the program. After review and approval from the faculty mentor, participants are asked to complete the following:

Research Proposal
All participants will be required to submit a proposal for their research paper. Most research proposals will require a topic sentence, methods section and bibliography.

Personal Statement
All participants will be asked to write one personal statement either as part of an admissions application into graduate school or as a component for an application for funding (e.g., grants).

Outline
All Humanities and Social Science program participants will be required to submit an outline of their research paper. The outline should begin with a preliminary introduction and a general thesis statement. Three main points should be included in the body of the outline.

Draft of Research Paper
(Not required for all participants; check with Program Coordinator) Participants will be required to submit a draft of their research paper. The draft should be as close to complete as possible.

Abstract
All participants will be required to submit an abstract of their research paper. Dimensions will be specified by the Program Coordinator but typically includes a description of the final research paper’s content and provide information about key findings and recommendations.

Final Research Paper
Most participants (e.g., CSU Pre-Docs, SHI, UC LEADS) will be required to submit a final research paper. The length of the paper is a minimum of 12 typed double-spaced pages and should not exceed 25 pages.

Oral Research Presentations
(Humanities and Social Science programs participants) Participants are required to present their research at a mini-conference with an audience of their peers, faculty, family and other groups. The scheduling of this event is dependent upon the number of participants in the given year, but typically runs from 8:30am to 3:00pm and runs over the course of two days. Presentations run 10 to 15 minutes in length, plus time for questions.

Poster Presentation
(STEM participants) Participants prepare a poster presentation of their research. Posters will be viewed collectively during a poster presentation afternoon, running for approximately 60 minutes.
Participation Testimonials
Participants are asked to prepare a testimonial statement of their experiences in SPUR. Testimonials may be used in the Booklet or program websites for future summer research programs.

Group Activities
To facilitate interaction among the participants, the following events have been incorporated into the Programs’ structure. It is the Programs’ expectation that interaction with intellectual peers from a variety of disciplines will provide a more academically enriching environment.

Welcome BBQ Reception (tentative date, attendance required)
For 2017, the Welcome BBQ Reception will be Monday, June 26, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, in the UCLA Canyon Point, Sunset Village area. Faculty mentors are invited to attend as well. RSVP requested.

Applying to the UC: The Nuts and Bolts of Graduate Admissions (tentative)
A special event for all SPUR participants, this workshop will discuss the various resources and attributes of the UC campus system, especially those at UCLA. Facilitated by the UCLA Graduate Division’s Diversity, Inclusion and Admissions (DIA) office, the workshop will also discuss the “Nuts and Bolts of Graduate Admissions” and provide insight for SPUR participants to submit their strongest application.

Other Enrichment Activities (Attendance optional)
Extracurricular activities will be scheduled to provide participants the opportunity to visit some of the culturally enriching areas of Southern California. Program Coordinators will organize several activities for students throughout the summer. Examples of past activities include concerts at the Santa Monica Pier, museum trips, theme park visits, etc. Participants are free to make arrangements for their own activities and may request assistance with transportation from Program Coordinators.

University Policies
All participants are expected to adhere to UCLA’s and SPUR policies. Failure to do so could result in the loss of some or all of the stipend, meal allowance and/or other monetary payments. There is also the possibility that those who do not follow policy will be terminated from the summer program and asked to leave the residence hall and UCLA campus.

Applicable policies include but are not limited to the following (visit the following website for full contents of the UCLA Student Conduct Code:
http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/144317_condeofcoduct_MarchV2_final%20with%20links.pdf

Alcohol/Drug Policy
All participants shall abide by University laws and policies concerning the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages, and all other policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the University of California, Los Angeles campus, and UCLA Residential facilities. Possession of opened or visible containers (e.g., cups, cans, bottles, cases/boxes) anywhere within or on grounds immediately adjacent to the residential facilities except in an assigned room where the door is closed (for those residential guests over 21 years of age) or at a UCLA catered event is strictly prohibited. The University also prohibits: unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, use or sale of, or the attempted manufacture, distribution, dispensing or sale of controlled substances, identified in Federal and State law or regulations. Possession of paraphernalia for intended or implied use of controlled substances, or paraphernalia possessing controlled substance residue, are prohibited.
Plagiarism and Sexual Harassment

The Chancellor may impose discipline for the commission or attempted commission (including aiding or abetting in the commission or attempted commission) of the types of misconduct delineated in Section II.B of the UCLA Code. Discipline may be imposed whether or not such misconduct also violates the law, and whether or not proceedings are or have been pending in the courts involving the same acts. Because of this, students might be involved in University disciplinary proceedings before, after or during court proceedings. Violations or attempted violations include, but are not limited to, the following types of misconduct.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including, but not limited to, representing, either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise, as the student's original work or representing the identifiable but altered ideas, data, or writing of another person as if those ideas, data, or writing were the student's original work.

Sexual Harassment

The UC policy on Sexual Harassment states: Sexual harassment is unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects a person's employment or education, unreasonably interfered with a person's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or learning environment. In the interest of preventing sexual harassment, the University will respond to reports of any such conduct.

Student Conduct Code Section 102.09 is applicable to the conduct of students who are not acting within the course and scope of UC employment. It provides: "Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is conduct that explicitly or implicitly affects a person's employment or education or interferes with a person's work or educational performance or creates an environment such that a reasonable person would find the conduct intimidating, hostile, or offensive. Sexual harassment includes sexual violence. The University will respond to reports of any such conduct in accordance with the Policy."

Facilities

Housing

The UCLA SPUR is a residential program, and participants are provided with residential facilities at UCLA. For Summer 2017, participants will be housed in DeNeve Plaza (Gardenia). The accommodations call for shared rooming (two people per room), which will allow participants from across the country to interact and form friendships with others from diverse backgrounds. No individual accommodations will be available. Room changes are not allowed except under dire circumstances. Any rooming issues are to be addressed following the procedures described on the housing information sheet provided to all participants.

All rooms are double occupancy with a communal bathroom for women and men on each floor. All rooms are air-conditioned, non-smoking and equipped with a telephone, Internet access, and beddings such as sheets and a blanket. Rooms are cleaned on a weekly basis. Such cleaning entails light vacuuming, fresh linens and cleaning of shared bathroom. No bedding, towels or other UCLA property may be removed from the rooms. Participants are responsible for removing and dumping their own trash down the designated trash chute.

Rules for Residents

As a UCLA Resident, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by the On-Campus Housing policies and regulations as outlined in the Student Handbook available at https://reslife.ucla.edu/rules/ and as stipulated by SPUR and other offices responsible for overseeing the residences (e.g., Housing Services, Office of Residential Life, and Conference Services).
Key & Access Card Agreement
Participants will be issued a room key-card at check-in. Participants will be responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen key-cards. Any lost key-cards must be replaced. The fee for a replacement key-card is $10.00; cost subject to increase. The occupant of the room who loses the key-card will be charged for these services. These amounts are subject to change. Updated information will be provided to participants during the check-in process.

Telephone
Each sleeping room is equipped with a telephone that allows complimentary access to UCLA campus extensions. Rooms offer complimentary access to local calls within a certain radius of the campus (some of the 310 area code). To make some local and all long distance calls, participants must use a prepaid calling card. Phone cards are available for sale at the DeNeve Plaza front desk, which is open 24 hours.

Pets
No animals, except service animals, are permitted in the residential facilities.

Quiet Hours
Designated quiet hours are 10:00pm – 9:00am daily. Program participants serious about gaining maximum benefits of the program should be prepared to observe the quiet hours in respect of the study habits of their roommates and hall mates.

Computer Access
Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own computers if possible. Although every student will be given access to computer labs on campus, access is limited due to reduced operating hours during the summer.

There is an Ethernet connection in each sleeping room. In order to connect to the Internet from the room, participants’ computers must have an Ethernet card installed. Ethernet cards may be purchased through the Student Technology Center on the first floor of the residence hall. Note: There is only one port per room, and participants will be sharing a room with one other person.

Sample of computer lab hours (subject to change)

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<th>Lab</th>
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<th>Mon – Thur</th>
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<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLICC</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>9:00am–7:00pm</td>
<td>9:00am–5:00pm</td>
<td>9:00am–5:00pm</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC)</td>
<td>B11 Student Activities Center</td>
<td>9:00am–5:00pm</td>
<td>9:00am–5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Tech. Center</td>
<td>200 DeNeve Drive, Room L-06</td>
<td>7:30am–8:00pm</td>
<td>7:30am–6:00pm</td>
<td>9:00am–6:00pm</td>
<td>12:00pm–5:00pm</td>
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The Science & Engineering Library (SEL)
Included in the mission of the Science & Engineering Library is to: provide access to information generated by or of value to the engineering and the physical sciences research communities; develop, organize, and maintain a collection that attempts to meet the needs of its users; develop and strengthen working relationships with faculty, students, and staff; provide instruction that enables users to access and evaluate information resources; and participate in or respond quickly and creatively to the development of relevant technologies and standards.

Sample of SEL hours (subject to change)

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<th>Monday–Friday</th>
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<td>9:00am–5:00pm</td>
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<td>Closed</td>
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Health Insurance
UCLA does not offer a health insurance plan for non-UCLA summer program participants. It is very important for participants to understand that insurance will not be provided during the period of the program. Thus, all participants are required to show proof of insurance that is valid during the period of their particular program. Those without such documentation will be ineligible to participate in SPUR. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Parking
Limited parking is available near the housing facility on a reserved basis via reserving and purchasing a campus parking permit and a parking access card. Parking permits and access cards must be purchased and paid for in full at check-in with check or Money Order, made payable to “UC Regents”, check with your Program Coordinator. Reserved parking permits and access cards may be canceled, but cancellations must be made in writing (e-mail okay) to the appropriate Program Coordinator at least 3-days before the move-in date. Any cancellations, on or after the move-in date, may result in the participant being responsible for full payment. There are no rebates for unused days (e.g., should a participant decide not to utilize the permit/access card for the entire length of the program).

For Summer 2016, parking cost $237 for commuter students and $297 for students in the residence halls. These prices may increase and are controlled by the UCLA Parking Services. Parking permits take at least 3 business days to process. Motorcycles and scooters park for free in designated spaces located in many parking lots and structures around campus. Participants must inform their Program Coordinator after admission into the program if they plan to purchase parking. Applicants need not make arrangements until after being admitted into the program, but note the cancellation policy—and possible penalty—above.

Recreational Facilities
Campus recreational facilities will be available only to participants living in summer program housing. The room key-card allows admission to all recreational facilities. The John Wooden Center and Sunset Canyon Recreational Center include swimming pools, weight rooms, tennis courts, racquetball courts and handball courts. Exercise classes are also offered. Registration and payment for these activities are the responsibility of the participant.

Amenities
Breakfast
The only meal provided with participation in the program’s on-campus housing is a full breakfast. Breakfast is served every day of the week from 7:00am to 9:00am at Rieber Dining Hall. The location may change due to construction or summer holidays such as the 4th of July. Be sure to check with your program coordinator for possible changes. Participants will be asked to be dressed appropriately for breakfast, including footwear.

Other meals
A meal allowance may be provided with your stipend (half at the beginning of the program and half at the end, upon successful completion of all program requirements) or you may receive a meal card from your program. Participants may use their meal allowance to purchase non-refundable meal tickets or other residence halls’ dining services. Sample per-meal prices (Note: prices based on 2016 rates. Exact prices are subject to change)—lunch (served 11:00am–2:00pm): $14 + tax, dinner (served 5:00pm–8:00pm): $16 + tax.

Laundry Facilities
Participants have access to laundry facilities within the residence hall. Hours of operation are from 7:00am through 11:00pm. To reduce noise levels and to respect the rest and study of dorm mates, participants are asked to refrain from using the laundry room from 10:00pm to 9:00am. The cost per load is $1.25 to wash and $1.25 to dry (prices are subject to change).
Travel Arrangements

All participants living on-campus are expected to arrive on Sunday, June 25, 2017 between the hours of 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Some programs will make all roundtrip air travel arrangements. Others will reimburse travel up to the set limits: a maximum of $200 for travel within California (but outside the Los Angeles area) or a maximum of $450 for travel outside California. Please check with the appropriate Program Coordinator to see if you or the program will be making the travel plans. In those programs where travel is arranged for the participant: Applicants who have accepted participation in the program and who make last-minute changes in travel will be fully responsible for the full cost of travel changes and/or cancellations. An on-campus house meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Sunday, June 25, 2017. All admitted participants are expected to attend. Plan to arrive at UCLA on Sunday, June 25 and leave Los Angeles, Saturday, August 19 (for the 8-week program) or Friday, September 1 (for the 10-week program).

Participants who are flying into the Los Angeles area will be responsible for arranging their own transportation between the airport and the campus. Participants should come prepared with enough funds to pay for shuttle or taxi fare. There is a Flyaway bus service from LAX to Westwood, at the south end of campus in Lot 32, for $10 each way. However, it is a very long walk, uphill, to the residence hall (see campus map at www.ucla.edu/map). For this reason, students can also use taxi services for drop-off at the housing location. Those participants who have not already reached the travel allowance may request reimbursement for shuttle or taxi fare up to the maximum allotted amount. To request a reimbursement, participants MUST submit an original receipt to his or her Program Coordinator. No original receipt = no reimbursement.

Check-In
Check-in time is 4:00pm–6:00pm on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The UCLA SPUR Coordinators will be present to welcome and assist you with the check-in process. If you plan to arrive outside of the allotted hours, please go directly to the DeNeve Plaza Front Desk (2nd floor) to check-in and receive your room key-card. If you arrive before 4:00pm, you may go to the DeNeve Plaza Front Desk to inquire about dropping off your luggage.

A room key-card will be provided upon check-in. Participants will be able to purchase parking permits/access cards at check-in if reserved in advance (see cancellation policy and penalty information in the section on Parking above). Failure to return these items to the designated official could result in a charge of $100 per item not returned by or at check-out. There is a telephone in each room. Your telephone number will be given to you upon your arrival.

Check-Out
Check-out time is 8:00am–11:00am on Saturday, August 19, 2017 (for the 8-week program) or Friday, September 1, 2017 (for the 10-week program). Later check-out times are not available. The room key-card and UCLA Bruin Card must be returned at check-out. Participants will be charged for any items that have not been returned to the official in charge at check-out. Late check-out without prior Front Desk approval or not checking out with the official in charge will result in charges to the participant equivalent to one night’s room rate (not per-person rate) for each night the participant is not officially checked out.
Amgen Scholars Program
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The Amgen Scholars Program is a national program to increase learning and networking opportunities for students committed to pursuing a career in science or engineering. UCLA will host 20 Amgen Scholars. Five (5) will be undergraduates from UCLA and 15 will be from other 4-year colleges and universities. Students interested in summer research in any area of biomedical science, chemistry, bioengineering or chemical engineering are encouraged to apply. Students will be paired with a UCLA faculty mentor if the student does not already have one. Program includes: stipend; housing; meals; 3-day biotechnology conference in Los Angeles; GRE test preparation; luncheons with faculty; workshops; seminars and poster presentations.

- For undergraduates enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
- For sophomores (with 4 quarters or 3 semesters of college experience), juniors and non-graduating seniors (who are returning in the fall to continue their undergraduate experience).
- Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.2 or above.
- Must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.
- 10 weeks (all participants must be able to attend the program for its entire duration. Be sure to check your fall term start date before applying).

For more information:

Andrea Davila
Program Representative
UCLA Undergraduate Research Center – Sciences
2121 Life Science Building
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
T: (310) 206-2182
F: (310) 267-2219
Email: AmgenSch@lifesci.ucla.edu
www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu
Brain Research Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (BRI-SURE)
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The UCLA Brain Research Institute (BRI) is sponsoring a summer undergraduate research experience (BRI-SURE) program for Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Scholars. This program solicits applications from students in MARC training programs from universities and colleges across the nation. BRI-SURE is a 10-week summer research-training program for exceptional students interested in pursuing Neuroscience research careers. The program is designed to provide a rigorous, in-depth research experience to prepare participants for top-quality Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs in the Neurosciences.

BRI-SURE participants will:
- conduct independent research with outstanding training program faculty mentors
- work in a cutting edge science and technology environment
- gain exposure to some of the nation's finest neuroscience investigators and an extensive variety of research topics
- receive individualized career counseling and develop career interests
- participate in workshops, seminars and journal clubs
- build a social network with student peers and faculty
- prepare to apply to the best Ph.D. neuroscience programs

BRI-SURE selects participants based on academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to diversity. BRI-SURE seeks students from either underrepresented or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. **Applicants must be MARC scholars.** The 10-week program includes weekly lectures given by BRI scientists tailored to our students. We also provide training in scientific writing and poster preparation and presentation. The program is under the UCLA SPUR umbrella and participates in many of their campus wide summer activities such as the culminating summer poster day.

For more information:

Dr. Dwayne D. Simmons
Associate Director, BRI Outreach
MARC Director
Department of Physiological Science
4214 Life Science Building
Box 951606
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
Phone: (310) 794-1228
Fax: (310) 206-9184
Email: BRISURE@mednet.ucla.edu
http://www.bri.ucla.edu/bri_education/scienceoutreach.asp
Bruins in Genomics (BIG) Summer Research Program  
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

BIG Summer is an intensive, practical experience in Genomics and Systems Biology.

The program begins with two weeks of hands-on workshops that cover fundamental next generation sequencing analysis techniques, some specific applications of gene variant calling, RNAseq expression analysis, mRNA splicing, and ChIPseq transcription factor location analysis. Following the workshops, students will join a lab and work in pairs under the supervision of UCLA faculty mentors and QCB postdoctoral fellows. Program includes GRE test prep, SPUR workshops on such topics as How to Write a Research Paper in the Sciences, Considering the MD/PhD, and How to Write an Abstract & Make a Poster, and the opportunity to present summer research findings.

- 8 week program
- Preferred Requirements: At least one biology and one computer science course.
- Minimum Requirements: Knowledge of one programming language.
- All interested UCLA and non-UCLA masters and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. Undergraduate students who have research mentors may also apply.
- Students entering their junior and senior year will have priority.
- Applicants must submit an online application, and submit personal statement, unofficial transcript, and resume/CV. STEM faculty letter references will be requested.

UCLA QCB is committed to attracting exceptional students who will contribute to the University’s diversity. We especially encourage applicants from groups that are underrepresented in STEM.

For more information:

Dr. Alexander Hoffman  
Program Director, BIG Summer  
UCLA Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics  
BOX 951570, 570A Boyer Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1570  
Email: ahoffmann@ucla.edu  
http://qcb.ucla.edu/big-summer/
California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

This program is restricted to undergraduate and master's-level students in the California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program. The Program is designed to increase the pool of potential university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of CSU students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. Each of the selected CSU Sally Casanova pre-doctoral scholars works closely during the academic year with a CSU faculty sponsor to develop an overall plan leading ultimately to enrollment in a doctoral program. Each of these plans is tailored to specific goals and educational objectives of the student. The Program places special emphasis on increasing the number of CSU students who enter doctoral programs at one of the University of California institutions. Summer Program includes: stipend, on-campus housing or housing allowance, meal allowance, funds toward roundtrip transportation cost, GRE test preparation, workshops and oral presentations.

- Open to all current CSU Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars, both graduate and undergraduate.
- To become a CSU Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar, please contact the program representative on your CSU campus.
- CSU Scholars complete only the UCLA SPUR on-line application after they have final approval from the UCLA SPUR Coordinator; do not submit supplemental materials.
- 8 weeks.

For more information:

Maridith A. Janssen, Ph.D.
Director
California Pre-Doctoral Program
CSU Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210
Phone: (562) 951-4706
Fax: (562) 951-4982
Email: mjanssen@calstate.edu
http://www.calstate.edu/predoc/research/

Beverly V. Yanuaria
UCLA Graduate Division
CSU Pre-Doctoral Summer Program Coordinator
1237 Murphy Hall
Los Angeles, California 90095-1419
Phone: (310) 206-8743
Fax: (310) 825-8099
Email: byanuaria@grad.ucla.edu
CARE Science, Engineering and Math (SEM) Summer Research Program

(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The Center for Academic & Research Excellence (CARE) SEM Summer Research Program offer hands-on research experience working in the laboratory of a distinguished UCLA faculty member. Students must identify a faculty mentor who is willing to write a letter of recommendation for their application to the program. Program includes: stipend, housing or housing allowance, GRE test preparation, workshops, seminars and poster presentations.

- For UCLA students only who are interested in pursuing research careers in the life sciences, health sciences, physical sciences or engineering.
- Students entering junior or senior year with a GPA > 3.0.
- Must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident. (AB540 or DACA students who meet all other eligibility requirements are welcomed to apply. Eligible applicants will be admitted on an honorary basis. The stipend amount is contingent on availability of funds.)
- A goal of the CARE SEM Summer Research Program is to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups in biomedical and behavioral research who progress towards the attainment of a Ph.D. degree. African American, Hispanic American, American Indian and Pacific Islander students are encouraged to apply.
- 10 week program

For more information:

Andrea Davila
Program Representative
UCLA Undergraduate Research Center – Sciences
2121 Life Science Building
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
T: (310) 206-2182
F: (310) 267-2219
Email: cares@lifesci.ucla.edu
www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu
HBCU: The Diversity Project

The summer of 2005 marked the beginning of a new research opportunity for undergraduate students. Founded by Dr. Paul Barber, the Diversity Project is a 10-week research intensive educational program is designed to increase participation of underrepresented minority students in marine and evolutionary biology through an integrated research experience that combines field work on the colorful and diverse coral reefs of the Indo-Pacific with cutting edge molecular genetic research. This program is supported by funding from the UC-HBCU initiative and the National Science Foundation. Students will work with faculty and students from UCLA, San Diego State University, Moss Landing Marine Lab, and the Smithsonian Institution. Through field work and laboratory training, students will learn an integrative approach towards the study of the ecology and biodiversity of coral reef ecosystems. Fieldwork and laboratory research will be complemented by mentoring on career development, ranging from successfully applying to graduate school to choosing a career. The Diversity Project will run through summer of 2017 funded by the UC-HBCU Initiative and an NSF PIRE grants.

Application requirements:

- Current sophomore or junior standing, or non-graduating seniors
- 3.0 GPA
- Great attitude and willingness to learn SCUBA diving

For More Information:
Dr. Paul Barber
Program Director
UCLA Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
BOX 951606, 2145 Terasaki Life Sciences Building
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
Email: paulbarber@ucla.edu
https://tdp.eeb.ucla.edu/
HBCU: Evolutionary Medicine: Pathways to PhDs

We are looking for undergraduate juniors and seniors from HBCUs to work on Evolutionary Medicine topics at UCLA. Evolutionary Medicine is the study of how evolutionary and ecological principles affect medicine and medical applications, and how medical and clinical problems generate new research questions and ideas in evolution. Evolutionary medicine is fast emerging as an important new field in the biomedical sciences. Representing an interdisciplinary subject that combines ecology and evolutionary biology, anthropology, psychology, zoology, systems biology and microbiology with medicine, the field of evolutionary medicine has the potential to transform the way biomedical researchers and doctors examine medical questions, conduct biomedical research, and treat patients. Summer interns will work closely with a principal investigator (PI) from UCLA's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department and a PI from the David Geffen School of Medicine.

Application requirements: undergraduate juniors and seniors from HBCUs to work on Evolutionary Medicine topics at UCLA.

*program will run pending NSF funding

For More Information:
Dr. Pamela Yeh  
Program Director  
UCLA Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
BOX 951606, 4227 Life Science Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606  
Email: Pamelayeh@ucla.edu
Integrated and Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program (i^2URP)

The i^2URP is a two year program that offers junior and senior UCLA students the opportunity to work closely with faculty on biomedical research topics during the academic year and summer. The i^2URP is an intensive program to prepare students for PhD studies, alone or as part of a MSTP program. It is not appropriate for students planning to pursue only an MD degree.

The i^2URP is supported in part by a grant to the Regents of the University of California from the HH Medical Institute through the Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education Program.

Program Eligibility:
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, entering their junior year for the coming academic year (must not have more than 145 total units)
- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- Be interested in pursuing graduate degrees (Ph.D., MSTP)

For More Information:

Renay Panduro  
Program Representative  
UCLA Undergraduate Research Center - Sciences  
Life Science Building 2121  
621 Charles E. Young Dr.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90095-1606  
Email: hhurp@lifesci.ucla.edu  
http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/hhurp.htm
Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC)

Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Branch seeks to increase the number of highly-trained underrepresented biomedical and behavioral scientists in leadership positions to significantly impact the health-related research needs of the nation. Nationally, groups found to be underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research include, but are not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives and natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

Program Eligibility:

- Applicants must have an interest in increasing diversity within the scientific workforce. Diversity includes historically under-represented racial or ethnic groups such as American Indians/Native Alaskans/Aleuts, African Americans, Mexican Americans/Chicano(a)s, Latino(a)s and Native Polynesians (Hawaiians, Samoans, Guamanians). Students with a registered disability are also encouraged to apply.
- 3.2 GPA at the time of application; borderline GPAs also encouraged to apply
- Have Junior standing (completed 90 or more units) at the time that they are to begin as MARC trainees.
- Must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- A Life/Physical Sciences or Engineering major and conducting research (or planning to conduct research) with a "biomedical" application.
- Students must also have a strong desire to pursue a career in basic research in a biomedical field (PhD, or dual degree program such as MD/PhD) and a commitment to participate in all MARC U*STAR Program activities.
- Complete necessary lab training courses prior to beginning work in research labs and/or receiving funding. The "Laboratory Safety Fundamental Concepts" class is required; please see the EH&S training schedule for class dates and enrollment instructions.

For More Information:

Dr. Dwayne Simmons
MARC Program Director (Note: currently on sabbatical)
Professor of Integrative Biology and Physiology

Mr. Alfredo Morales
MARC Program Coordinator
Email: marc@lifesci.ucla.edu

Dr. Jeff Long
MARC Interim Co-Director
Professor, Department of Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
BOX 957246, 5315 Terasaki Life Science Building
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7246
Email: jeffalong@ucla.edu

Dr. Karen Lyons
MARC Interim Co-Director
Professor, Department of Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
615 Charles E. Young Dr. South, Rm. 510
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7358
klyons@mednet.ucla.edu
Medical Imaging Informatics: Research in Informatics Summer Experience (MII-RISE)

(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The UCLA Medical Imaging Informatics (MII) training program provides a summer research and graduate admission pathways program with the goal of increasing diversity among graduate students who enroll in science, engineering, and informatics programs with an emphasis on biomedical big data. The Research in Informatics Summer Experience (RISE) is an 8-week residential research-training program that offers practical experience working on challenges related to clinical big data analytics in an academic research environment and engages participants to pursue a career or advanced degree in informatics as either a practitioner or researcher who would contribute to the development, implementation, and deployment of such technologies in practice. For students enrolled at Florida A&M University, the program provides a stipend and travel allowance in addition to covering room/board and program fees. Other students are welcome to apply. Please contact the MII RISE program prior to assess eligibility.

- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference will be given to students entering their junior or senior year.
- Applicants must submit the following: 1) The UCLA SPUR Online application form, 2) An unofficial copy of the applicant’s transcript, 3) A personal statement (limit to 1,000 words) that describes the applicant’s past, present, or future experiences or goals that demonstrate a commitment to research and diversity in health sciences or engineering, 4) A copy of the student’s resume or CV, and 5) One letter of reference from a faculty member in the sciences.
- Submit additional application materials directly to RISE@mii.ucla.edu.
- This program is open to Florida A&M University and UCLA students only.
- To learn more about how to apply to this program, please contact Dr. William Hsu or Ms. Isabel Rippy at RISE@mii.ucla.edu.

For More Information:
Dr. William Hsu, Program Director
Isabel Rippy, Program Representative
UCLA Radiology Sciences - UCLA Medical Imaging Informatics
BOX 957255, BofA, Suite 420
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Email: RISE@mii.ucla.edu
The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Writing and Research Training Program at UCLA is an intensive writing and research program for 20 current Mellon Mays Fellows from participating Mellon Mays colleges and universities. The program is especially geared toward Mellon Mays Fellows from institutions in the western United States. Fellows participate in a rigorous scholarly writing and research methodology course, individual and group mentoring sessions, workshops, events, and a final research colloquium. The program also includes on-campus housing and a meal allowance.

- Applicants must be current Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows at their colleges or universities
- For rising juniors (first-year MMUF students) or seniors (second-year MMUF students)
- 6 weeks
- Please note that students will NOT be paired directly with a faculty mentor but will take an intensive writing and research course
- Admission to the program is rolling; applicants are advised to apply early due to limited space
- A complete application includes the submission of the online application form, as well as a brief research statement and a description of summer research goals. See the program website for full details of supplementary application materials.
- To learn more about this program, please visit the program website or contact Dr. Whitney Arnold at warnold@college.ucla.edu.

For More Information:

Dr. Whitney Arnold, Program Director
Undergraduate Research Center – Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
BOX 951430, A334 Murphy Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1430
Email: warnold@college.ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-2935
Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Undergraduate (Physics & Astronomy REU)
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The University of California, Los Angeles, will offer a research experience program in Physics and Astronomy in which undergraduate students will work with a faculty mentor, as well as other professors, researchers and graduate students on a research project. All interested students are invited to apply for this 10 week summer program. The participants will gain direct experience by working in ongoing experimental or theoretical research programs in plasma and beam physics, solid state physics, astrophysics and high-energy physics. All students will attend weekly seminars on current research in physics and will attend machine shop and Physics GRE workshops. The experience will culminate with the writing of a report and presentation of findings at a closing Symposium. The educational part of the program will be include social events with participants in other campus research programs, an astronomy camping trip and exploration of the Southern California area.

- 10 Weeks
- Participants must be US citizens or permanent residents enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in physics or astrophysics.
- Student must have finished at least one year of college but may not have completed a B.S. or B.A. degree.
- Student must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- College students from two-year or four-year institutions may apply.
- Women and students from traditionally underrepresented groups and institutions are encouraged to apply.

For More Information:

Françoise Queval
Academic Coordinator
Physics and Astronomy
1-707A PAB
Box: 95147
Los Angeles, California 90095-1419
Phone: (310) 825-2453
Fax: (310) 825-4147
Email: queval@physics.ucla.edu
http://www.pa.ucla.edu/content/undergraduate-research-physics-astronomy-reu-2014
Summer Nursing Program: School of Nursing
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

Preference will be given to applications that are completed by the program’s deadline. Notification of decisions will be made by the end of May 2017.

This program offers nursing undergraduates in their junior year with outstanding academic potential the opportunity to work on research projects with School of Nursing faculty mentors. It is designed for students who plan to pursue the PhD degree and enter academic careers in nursing. Program includes stipend, on-campus housing, meal allowance, funds toward roundtrip transportation cost, GRE test preparation, formal and informal discussion on career options and other activities. Each student participant will be assigned to a faculty mentor matched as closely as possible to the student's research interests and career goals. Participants will either assist the faculty member in an ongoing research project or, with approval of faculty, work collaboratively with the mentor in designing a new project of mutual interest.

- Research areas: Biobehavioral Sciences, Biologic Sciences, Health Disparities/Vulnerable Populations and Health Services Research.
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- For qualified nursing students currently holding undergraduate junior status.
- Preference given to first-generation college students.
- Cumulative, minimum GPA of 2.80.
- 8 weeks.

For more information:
Rhonda Flenoy-Younger
Director of Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions
School of Nursing
BOX 951702, 2-634 Factor
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1702
rflenoy@sonnet.ucla.edu.
http://nursing.ucla.edu/body.cfm?id=71
**Summer Programs for Undergraduate Research: Life and Biomedical Sciences (SPUR-LABS)**
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The **SPUR-LABS** summer program provides a rigorous eight or ten-week research training experience for undergraduates with interests in a broad range of bioscience disciplines—-from molecules to organisms and from basic to translational science. Exceptional research training, integrated with professional development activities, will prepare students to succeed in leading Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs. The program aims to contribute to diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of barriers to participation in bioscience research careers and is designed for students participating in honors research programs that foster transition to doctoral programs (e.g., Minority Access to Research Careers, MARC). Participants receive a $3,500 summer stipend, GRE preparation course, lodging on the UCLA campus, a meal allowance and travel support.

Participants will be matched with an appropriate faculty member based on research interests. There are over 400 faculty mentors in ten bioscience research areas.

A complete application includes the submission of the online application form as well as all supplementary materials, including two letters of recommendation and a personal statement that describes your bioscience research interests and any research experience, including how these interests and experiences have shaped your personal and professional goals, and how SPUR-LABS would help you meet these goals. See [program website](http://bioscience.ucla.edu/) for full details of supplementary application materials.

Selection criteria: academic preparation and achievement; leadership potential; relevance of research interests and experience; potential for the program to help the applicant achieve his/her career goals; and potential to contribute to the diversity and excellence of the bioscience research enterprise.

For additional information see [program website](http://bioscience.ucla.edu/) or contact the Program Directors, Drs. Gregory Payne and Diana Azurdia at [spurlabs@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:spurlabs@mednet.ucla.edu).

**For more information:**

Dr. Gregory Payne  
Dr. Diana Azurdia  
*Program Directors*  
UCLA Graduate Programs in Bioscience  
BOX 951570, 2311 Life Sciences  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1570  
[spurlabs@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:spurlabs@mednet.ucla.edu)  
[http://bioscience.ucla.edu/](http://bioscience.ucla.edu/)
University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UC LEADS)
(Click on the program name above to learn more.)

The goal of the University of California's new Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UC LEADS) program is to educate California's future leaders by preparing promising students for advanced education in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM). The program is designed to identify upper-division undergraduate students with the potential to succeed in these disciplines, but who have experienced situations or conditions that have adversely impacted their advancement in their field of study.

Scholars are expected to complete the entire two-year program. The research objectives of the program are substantial and require a full-time student commitment. At the beginning of each academic year, scholars will be expected to develop a detailed plan of action with the guidance of their faculty mentor. The Action Plan will include information such as:

- Enrolled at University of California, Los Angeles, in an undergraduate degree program in the physical, life, or computer sciences; engineering; mathematics; physical anthropology, archaeology, geography, linguistics or experimental psychology. Transfer students are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants should apply prior to their junior year and/or should be on track to receive the baccalaureate degree at the conclusion of the second year of the UC LEADS program.
- Citizens or permanent residents of the United States
- Interest in using the doctoral degree to promote diversity in science, engineering and mathematics fields; and demonstrate perseverance and commitment to educational achievement.
- Students who intend to pursue professional graduate degrees in management (MBA), law (JD), medicine (MD) or dentistry (DDS) are not eligible for this program.

For more information:

Devin L. Horton, PhD
Assistant Director, Undergraduate Research Center - Sciences
UCLA
2121 Life Science Bldg.
621 Charles E. Young Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
Email: dhorton@college.ucla.edu
www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu
(310) 206-2680 office
(310) 267-2219 fax
The UCLA, Howard, Clark-Atlanta, Spelman Summer Research and Admissions Pathways Program

The UCLA, Howard, Clark-Atlanta, Spelman Summer Research and Admissions Pathways Program provides a comprehensive summer research experience. The goal is to build a cohesive relationship between academic and student affairs: working in unison for the goal of diversifying our graduate student population. The program duration is ten weeks. Participants are connected with a faculty mentor and research group and participate in a poster presentation during the final week. Our program is ideal for students with career interests in academia or industry. The program is a collaborative effort between UCLA Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Howard University, Clark-Atlanta University, and Spelman College. We provide a stipend and travel allowance, as well as room/board and program fees.

- The program is a collaborative effort between UCLA Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Howard University, Clark-Atlanta University, and Spelman College. Potential participants must be students at Howard University, Clark-Atlanta University, or Spelman College.

- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a 3.0 GPA or above. Preference will be given to students in their junior or senior years.

- Applicants must submit the following: 1) The UCLA SPUR Online application form, 2) an unofficial transcript, 3) a personal statement (limit to 1,000 words) that describes the applicant's background, 4) a research statement (limit to 1,000 words) that describes the applicant's research experience and demonstrates a commitment to research in chemistry or biochemistry, and 5) two letters of reference from faculty members in the sciences, citing examples of research experiences.

- Submit additional application materials directly to chemgrad@chem.ucla.edu

- To learn more about how to apply to this program, please contact Dr. Thomas Cahoon at chemgrad@chem.ucla.edu

For More Information:

Dr. Thomas Cahoon
Director, Graduate Programs & Initiatives
UCLA Chemistry & Biochemistry
BOX 951569, 4006A
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1569
Email: chemgrad@chem.ucla.edu
The UCLA-HBCU Research Program in Developing Earthquake Resilient Residential Communities

The UCLA-HBCU Research Program in Developing Earthquake Resilient Communities provides a summer research and graduate admission pathways program for HBCU students, with the goal of increasing diversity among graduate students who enroll in the Civil and Environmental Department at UCLA, with an emphasis in structural/earthquake engineering. It includes an 8-week residential research-training program that offers practical experience working on challenging problems related to quantifying and enhancing the seismic resilience of communities. Participants will work under the guidance of Dr. Henry V. Burton, and will be immersed in an academic research environment that engages students to pursue a career or advanced degree in structural engineering as either a practitioner or researcher who would contribute to the development, implementation, and deployment of such technologies in practice. The program provides a $3,000 stipend and travel allowance in addition to covering room/board and program fees.

- Applicants must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference will be given to students entering their junior or senior year.
- Applicants must submit the following: 1) A completed application form which can be downloaded from the program website, 2) An unofficial copy of the applicant’s transcript, 3) A one-page personal statement that describes the applicant’s past, present, or future experiences or goals that demonstrate a commitment to conduct research in structural engineering, and 4) One letter of reference from a faculty member in the Civil Engineering Department at their undergraduate institution.
- Submit an electronic copy of the application materials directly to Dr. Burton: hvburton@ucla.edu. Reference letters should be sent directly by the faculty to Professor Burton via email.
- To learn more about the program, please contact Dr. Burton at UCLA at hvburton@ucla.edu.

For More Information:

Dr. Henry Burton
Program Director
UCLA Civil & Environmental Engineering
BOX 951593, 5732 E Boelter Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1593
Email: hvburton@ucla.edu
The UCLA Neuroscience Scholars program is a 10-week intensive summer research training experience for exceptional UCLA sophomore and junior undergraduates that are committed to pursuing a graduate degree in neuroscience. Neuroscience Scholars will be paired with a UCLA faculty mentor based on their research interests. The first 2 weeks of the program will consist of hands-on workshops and/or lectures that cover fundamental experimental approaches for neuroscience research. For the remaining 8 weeks of the program, students will conduct discovery research in the laboratories of their faculty mentors. The program also includes: $5000 stipend, journal clubs, lunches with faculty, career development workshops, seminars and poster presentations.

- For UCLA sophomore and junior undergraduates in Neuroscience, Physiological Sciences, Psychobiology and other neurobiology-related fields.
- Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.2 or above
- Must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.
- Must be able to devote full-time effort over the entire duration of the 10 week program
- Previous research experience is preferred
- Applicants must submit 1) UCLA SPUR online application, 2) personal statement summarizing your neuroscience research interests (limit 1000 words), 3) list of 3-5 neuroscience faculty mentors that you would like to work with, 3) summary of prior research, if any (limit 1000 words), 4) two letters of recommendation from science faculty, 5) resume/CV, 6) academic transcript

For More Information:

Dr. Elaine Hsiao
Program Director
UCLA Integrative Biology & Physiology
BOX 957239, 3825A MSB
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7239

Jeffrey Donlea
UCLA Neurobiology
BOX 951763, 63-251 CHS
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1763

Email: NeuroScholars@ucla.edu
Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

When is my application due?
For your application to be considered complete, all materials must be received by the Program's deadline. This includes verification of financial aid, transcripts and letters of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be given full consideration.

May I apply for more than one program?
Yes. On the online application, you have the option to indicate up to two summer programs for which to be considered.

How will I know if my on-line application is complete?
Once you’ve completed entering the application information, you must hit the "submit" button. Once you do, you will receive a confirmation page to keep for your records.

How will I know if my support materials have been received?
Applicants can review the status of their application via the SPUR application website at https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/diversity/summer-programs-for-undergraduate-research-spur/online-application/ by clicking on the "view status of your application" link. Information will be updated as materials are received.

May I apply if my GPA is less than the stated minimum?
Be sure to check the eligibility requirements for the specific program(s) to which you are applying. In some cases, you might still apply, but as these are all very competitive programs, a lower GPA may be a disadvantage.

How can I tell if I need to fill out the financial aid verification form?
Financial aid is usually given in the form of repayable loans (e.g., Stafford). Students receiving grants or stipends that do not have to be paid back are not receiving financial aid. Be sure to complete the online application according to your situation. If you are receiving a grant or scholarship and you check the "receiving financial aid box," we will await your financial aid verification. Your application will be considered incomplete until the verification is received.

May I FAX in materials to meet the deadline?
Original documents are required. Special consideration will be given to applicants who are currently overseas. It is highly recommended that you contact the Program Coordinator to establish a reasonable plan of action.

Must all materials be submitted at one time?
Letters of recommendation, transcripts and verification of financial aid package may arrive under separate cover but all must be received by the Program's deadline.

How many SPUR participants each year?
There were approximately 200 participants in the 2016 SPUR cohort.

One or more pieces of my contact information have changed, how can I update my application information?
You may access the on-line application and select the update information option. You will be asked to enter your email address and password to access your record.

Do I need to have a faculty mentor selected before applying to the program?
Depending on the program, you are not at any disadvantage if you do not have a pre-selected faculty mentor. A faculty mentor may be arranged for you if you are selected to participate in the program. However, if you wish to suggest a faculty mentor, first we suggest reaching out to the Student Affairs Officer in the faculty member’s department. The Student Affairs Officer may be able to offer insight to potential faculty mentors for you to contact.
How is my application reviewed?
Applications will be sent to the coordinator of the program deemed to be best suited for the student and his/her research interests. Consequently, you may be contacted by a coordinator from a program that differs from the one to which you had originally applied. A faculty review committee set up by the specific program will review all applications for that program.

How will a faculty mentor be selected for me?
Depending on the program, each student participant will be assigned to a faculty mentor with special expertise and interests matched, as closely as possible, to the participant’s research interests and career goals. Participants will either assist the faculty member in an ongoing research project or work collaboratively with their mentor in designing a new project of mutual interest. If you wish to suggest a faculty mentor, we suggest reaching out to the Student Affairs Officer in the faculty member’s department. Contact information for individual departments can be found on the Graduate Division website at https://grad.ucla.edu/.

Am I able to enroll in summer classes while participating in the summer research program?
The program is quite intensive and requires a full-time commitment. It is highly recommended that you not enroll in classes during the summer.
Guidelines for Faculty Mentors and Student Participants

Student Expectations

Participants will be assigned to ongoing research projects based on their defined area of research interest. **Participants are required to contact their assigned faculty mentor once** on the UCLA campus to discuss the nature of the work to be undertaken and to develop a schedule for future contact and project research.

Each student’s specific research program will differ according to the faculty mentor and subject matter. Only in some cases will research undertaken by the student be “original.” In all cases, however, participants should be shown where and how their work fits the overall goal or direction of the mentor’s research.

Participants should expect to put in a full-time effort on their projects, which may include work on evenings and weekends, as the project and mentor/advisor may require. Research mentors will expect continued and sustained work throughout the eight or ten weeks from the student researchers.

Participants should expect to meet at least once a week with their research mentor/advisor, or more often depending on the project and the mentor’s arrangement. Less frequent contact is not advised unless the research mentor/advisor will be away from campus or unless prior arrangements are made.

Participants will be expected to meet with the program staff/graduate assistant once a week during regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the progress of research project.

After discussion with the faculty mentor, participants will be required to submit a research proposal that will be due no later than the end of the third week of the program. This proposal will outline the research to be conducted and expected results of the project.

At the end of the program, humanities and social science participants will be required to prepare an oral presentation about research results and conclusions. Science students will be required to prepare a poster presentation about research results and conclusions. A final paper must also be submitted to the Program Director(s) and to the faculty mentor by the end of the eight-week of the program. The length of the paper should be a minimum of 12 typed, double-spaced pages.

Participants can expect advice and guidance about graduate school admission, graduate work career opportunities in research and teaching, and the nature of academic life from the research group and from the Summer Programs for Undergraduate Research staff.

Participants will be asked to evaluate the program and their research experience at various periods during the program and beyond.
Faculty Mentor Expectations

Research mentors are asked to interact with the student researcher to integrate him/her fully into the research team, and to supervise the student’s research activities. Participants should not be involved with daily clerical responsibilities nor should their work be mainly composed of laboratory maintenance.

Research mentors should work with the student(s) to develop a work schedule for the student’s project, outline research goals and methodologies, and establish guidelines for the student researchers to follow. The Program Coordinators may ask for a written outline of the student’s work plan (proposal) by the end of the third week of the program.

Research mentors will acquaint participants with the “culture” of research and will discuss career opportunities in the discipline, especially teaching and academic research. One of the program benefits to the student is developing a professional relationship with the faculty mentor. Frequent interaction with the student provides the mentor with knowledge about the student’s ability, work, performance, and potential for graduate school. Participants will therefore be encouraged to ask their mentors for letters of recommendation when they apply to graduate school.

Research mentors should help the student prepare the final report of the project and develop the oral presentation or the poster for the research symposium at the end of the session. The mentor and/or the graduate student program assistants will also be responsible for editing the student’s paper for final submission to the graduate division.

Research mentors are expected to be in contact with the participants before they arrive on campus in order to outline the nature of the project and, if possible, provide a preliminary reading list. Participants will be instructed in their letters to contact you, his or her faculty mentor, by telephone or email to discuss the nature of the research project that will be conducted during this eight- or ten-week program.

Research mentors may expect ongoing written or oral reports (or both) from the participants as deemed necessary. Research mentors will be asked at the end of the program to submit an evaluation form on the student’s work.

If a student must miss a required activity because of the research project or other related activity as required by the faculty mentor, the student will be asked to inform the staff by email and copy you on this message. This is done to maintain communication between faculty mentors and the program.

Research mentors are encouraged to attend their student’s research presentation to be given at the research symposium at the end of the program. Participants must complete all requirements for the program, and all work must be judged by the faculty mentor to be satisfactory. Participants will be requested to have faculty mentor signatures on all assignments.