

# RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS

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## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS

- You'll usually have the prerequisites for an REU or internship after your sophomore year, but be sure to look at individual requirements just in case - some will be geared toward freshmen or juniors
- You'll usually need 2 letters of recommendation in addition to application materials - try to make a good impression on professors by attending office hours and talking about mathematical research
  - Bring letter writers a copy of your CV and statement of intent, and be very clear about application deadlines
  - Provide stamped envelopes whenever a paper application is necessary, and give plenty of reminders before the application is due
- Start looking into these options in the fall - REU's are notoriously bad about updating their websites, but this will give you an idea of the timeline you'll be on in the spring. Internships generally have earlier deadlines, and you'll need to have your letters lined up in the winter

## INTERNSHIPS

- Internships are a great experience for career-bound students and can give you an idea of what kind of work you might do in the future. However, don't be too worried about the subject of your internship; any internship is work experience, even if it isn't what you're hoping to do after graduation.
- Be ready to apply before the spring semester - deadlines for internships are usually very early in January, and it can be hard to get materials from professors before the semester has started. Start planning early to make sure your application gets in on time

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## SUMMER REU'S

- Experience at an REU is vital for a competitive grad school application, and it is a good resume-building experience for students who plan to be on the job market after graduation.
- Be ready to apply towards the start of the spring semester - REU's usually have flexible deadlines, where they'll accept applications even after they've started reviewing them. Apply early for full consideration!

## ON-CAMPUS RESEARCH

- Reach out to professors in the department and ask about possible research projects
- Some will offer funding, and others might be willing to supervise you in a for-credit research project - both options give you great experience and an informed letter writer!
- Ask professors whose classes you've taken for suggestions, or just search the department webpage for subjects that interest you.
  - Remember to be polite, but professors are busy people - if you don't hear back from them, it's a good idea to ask again