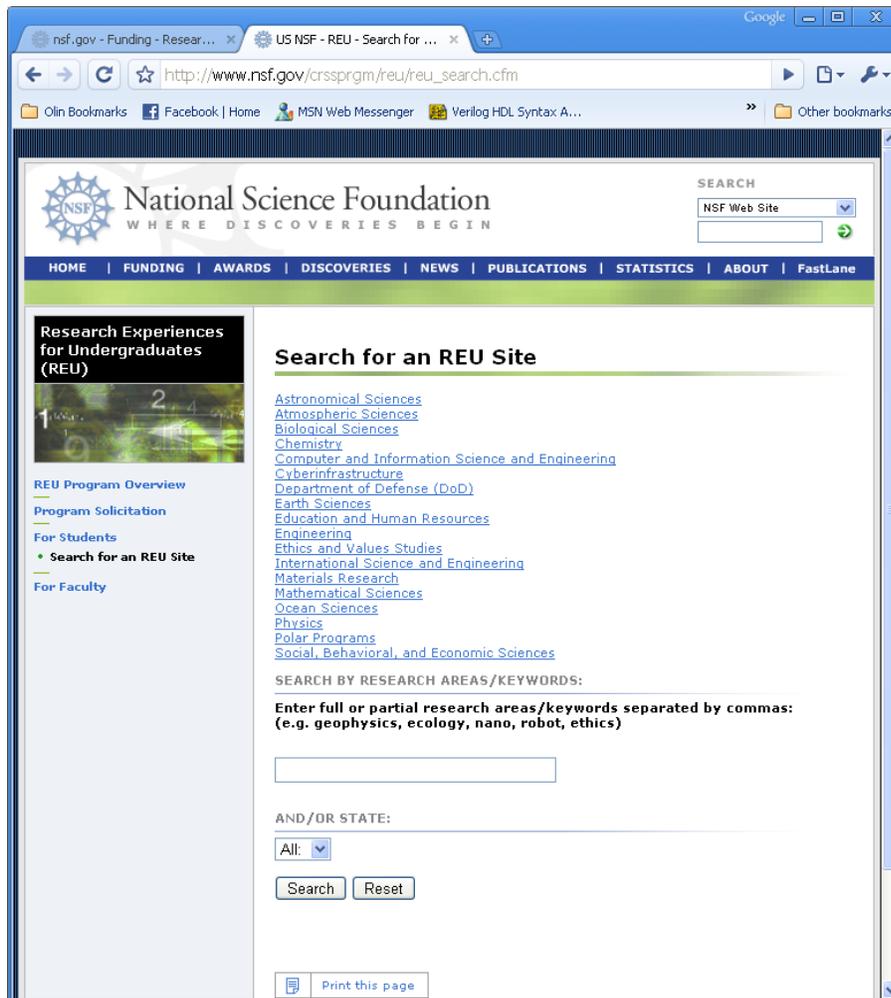


# How to get an REU

## Step 1: NSF

Look up what programs have received funding from NSF, the National Science Foundation:

[http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu\\_search.cfm](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm)



Click on Engineering or another area of research keeping in mind that sometimes AHS related REUs can have tie-ins to engineering education. This is your big chance to explore things outside of Olin either at a big research university or in a non-engineering field.

## Step 2: Find a Program

As an example, I will Search for materials:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/search\\_result.cfm](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/search_result.cfm). The page is titled "Search Results for REU Sites" and displays a table of results for the keyword "Materials".

Site Information	Contact Information	Additional Information
<b>University of Toledo</b> <a href="#">Research Experiences in Physics and Astronomy at The University of Toledo</a> Physics and Astronomy Toledo, OH 43606	<b>Primary:</b> Thomas Kvale 419-530-2980 <a href="mailto:reu@physics.utoledo.edu">reu@physics.utoledo.edu</a>	<b>Research Topics/Keywords:</b> Astronomy, Atomic Physics, Biological Physics, Condensed Matter, Materials Science, Optronics, Plasma Physics <a href="#">Abstract of Award</a> <b>Cofunded:</b> Physics
<b>University of Arkansas</b> <a href="#">REU Site: University of Arkansas, Directing Students to Scientific Careers</a> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Fayetteville, AR 72701	<b>Primary:</b> David Paul 501-575-5190 <a href="mailto:dpaul@uark.edu">dpaul@uark.edu</a> <b>Secondary:</b> Julie Stenken 501-575-7018 <a href="mailto:istenken@uark.edu">istenken@uark.edu</a>	<b>Research Topics/Keywords:</b> chemistry, biochemistry, materials science <a href="#">Abstract of Award</a> <b>Cofunded:</b> Materials Research
<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> <a href="#">REU Site: Nanosystems Chemistry and Engineering Research (NanoCER)</a> Chemistry and Biochemistry Los Angeles, CA 900246523	<b>Primary:</b> Manashi Chatterjee <a href="mailto:mchatterjee@cnsi.ucla.edu">mchatterjee@cnsi.ucla.edu</a> <b>Secondary:</b> Robin Garrall <a href="mailto:garrall@chem.ucla.edu">garrall@chem.ucla.edu</a>	<b>Research Topics/Keywords:</b> Chemistry, Materials Science, Engineering (Mechanical & Aerospace, Electrical, Bio-) <a href="#">Abstract of Award</a>
<b>University of California - Irvine</b> <a href="#">Research Experiences for Undergraduates in the Chemistry Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Chem-SURE) Program</a> Chemistry Irvine, CA 92697	<b>Primary:</b> Fillmore Freeman 949.824.6501 <a href="mailto:chemsurf@chem.uci.edu">chemsurf@chem.uci.edu</a>	<b>Research Topics/Keywords:</b> chemical biology, chemical physics, analytical, atmospheric, bioinorganic, bioorganic, computational (theoretical), inorganic, materials, organic, physical, polymer, and surface chemistry <a href="#">Abstract of Award</a>

Boise State University has a Chemistry REU and the NSF website actually has a link that works. Usually the links on the NSF website are broken. If that is the case, go to the website of the college, i.e. <http://www.boisestate.edu/> and search for REU or Summer Research to find the web-page with information on the program at that institution.

### Step 3: Apply

Now you just need to find one that interests you and apply

If you look under application, you see that you can apply online or by paper. Here are the application requirements:

Each applicant for the Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates will have to provide the following information, **by the application deadline these will vary depending on the program (but usually between February and March)**

1. REU Program Application Form
2. At least two references, each in a sealed and signed envelope (get these sooner rather than later as faculty get busy in the Spring!)
3. Official undergraduate transcript(s)

4. Statement of interest in the program, limited to two pages (e.g. state relevant experiences and why you would make a successful researcher)

This is standard for all REUs. A 1-2 Page essay, an application form, 2 letters of recommendation, and a transcript. The deadlines, however, vary. You can certainly start getting letters of recommendations ready and keep checking the website for an updated application.

- Timeline:
  - Now:
    - Begin Thinking about where you want to live, what you want to work on
      - Narrow by location
      - Narrow by Program
      - Narrow by where you want to go to Grad School
    - Make list of programs you are interested in and check their websites regularly
    - E-mail professors at other institutions about their research so you can get an idea of the programs you want to apply for
  - Winter Break
    - Apply for 8-10 REUs
    - Remind Olin Profs about letters of recommendations
  - Jan. 1 – first rounds of due dates
  - Feb. 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Due dates
  - March 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Due dates

You could start hearing back from the programs as early as February. Don't despair though, Mid to late March is also reasonable.