



The Summer Search

Finding & applying for paid summer research / internships in STEM



Research

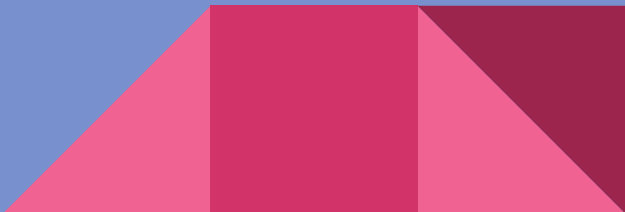
On Campus

- Long term research project
- Stay near friends and family
- Strengthen connection with a mentor
- Additional free time

Off Campus

- Topics of research not available at Hendrix
- Experience a new city
- Expand your network
- Professional development programming

Where to start finding research / internships

- NSF REUs
 - Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates (DREU)
 - Specific institutions you are interested in
 - Other College Career-Services Pages
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- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping triangles and rectangles in various shades of pink and red.

Organizing your search

- REU title / Institution
- Due date
- Application requirements (# of recommendations, type of transcript)
- Program dates / length
- Financial aspects (stipend, housing)
- Website / link to application
- Brief reminder of why you like the program

Letters of Recommendation

- Ask at least 3 professors if they can write a ***STRONG*** letter for you
 - STEM professors who know you well
 - Research mentor
- Ask them how they prefer to be informed / reminded about letters
- Let them know about letters early
- Spreadsheet
 - Due date (sorted)
 - Program title and location
 - Why you want to be in the program
- Send a reminder the week before
- Write them a Thank You note

Personal Statement

- Have a general statement to work with
 - Professional / educational aspirations (getting a PhD)
 - Why summer research is important for achieving this goal
 - Mention: small liberal-arts institution in central Arkansas (limited research)
 - Previous research and relevant coursework / experiences
- Personalize for each program
 - Research topics you would like to work on at the program
 - Mentors you would be interested in working with
 - How the professional development programs could help you become a better scientist
 - Interest in pursuing a PhD at the institution in question



Demo



Internships

Where to look:

- Job sites
 - Glassdoor, Indeed, etc.
- Make connections
 - Ask professors, family, friends
- Spring Internship Fair
- Compiled Internship lists
 - <https://github.com/jbinvnt/internships-2020-summer>, <https://github.com/elaine-zheng/summer2020internships>
- Specific institutions you have interest in
 - eg. companies you've heard of, anything Government

Is there a company you really love?

Unlike research opportunities, sometimes a company is considering an internship program but hasn't put out any feelers yet. Sometimes, if you ask, they'll make one just for you!

- Contact their HR department
 - Ask about internship opportunities or if they'd be willing to create one
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Resume

- One page!
- Bullet points - try to avoid two-line sentences
- PDF if sent directly, word document if submitted online (for the machines)
- Don't include anything from high school after freshman year
- List projects that you've worked on
- Link to GitHub
- List relevant work experiences with dates and locations
- Only provide home address if you are applying to something local

Applying to...

Large companies

- Be ready for their process (multi-step applications, CV, cover letter, etc.)
- Many interviews, including a coding interview and phone screen
- They will contact you most of the time

Small companies

- Be persistent! If they said they'll call back and don't, call them!
- More personal, may be a "culture" interview
- Be flexible. They probably don't have a huge HR department, so you're getting the scraps of their time.

Pros of working at...

Large companies

- Probably pays better
- Looks better on resumes
 - Stepping stone to jobs at big-name companies
- Travel
- Opportunity to work on wide range of issues
- Resources devoted to internship program

Small companies

- Stay local
- Tighter knit community
- Can often choose more specific areas of work by choosing a company (telecom systems, app development, security)
- Start-ups are great for getting lots of experience in many areas

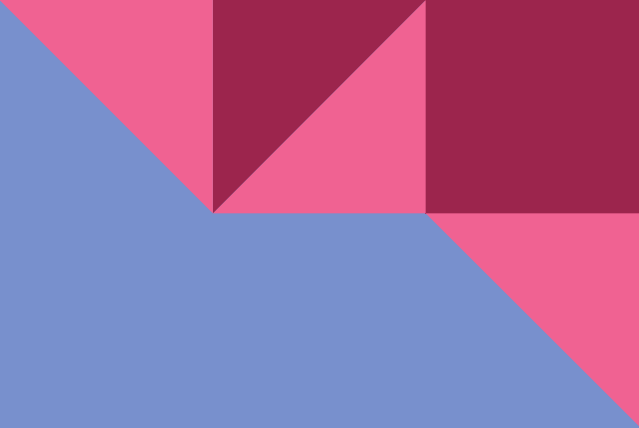
Cons of working at...

Large companies

- Housing costs (if not paid for)
- Lost in the fray
- Big company; big expectations
- Less opportunity for impact

Small companies

- Unstructured internship program
- Few interns/people your age
- Good money, but less than Facebook will give you



For research or
internships, it's all a
number's game.
Start applying!

FAQ

- When should I start?
 - Finals / Winter Break
 - How many should I apply to?
 - As many as you are interested. ~10 is a good goal
 - Do I have a chance of getting anything?
 - Yes!
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