Summer research can help you:

- Try out research full time, beyond your lab classes
  - Do you enjoy it? Could graduate school and a research career be a good fit?
- Learn about new methods and topics
  - Develop skills that aren't used at Grinnell
  - Work on an issue not covered by our faculty
- Experience "grad school camp": a large lab with graduate students, post-docs, and other students under a lead researcher
- Prepare for graduate school
  - PhD programs and medical school both look for significant research experience

Summer research programs

- On campus: **MAPs**
  - Mentored Advanced Project
  - Supervised by Grinnell faculty
  - Usually in collaboration with other students
  - Eligible after second year

summer 2023 MAP apps due Feb. 26

- Off campus: **REUs** and similar programs
  - Research Experience for Undergraduates, funded by NSF
  - Other programs have a similar structure but different funding
  - Eligibility & requirements vary

Finding opportunities: formal programs

career.grinnell.edu/resources/summer-research

grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/Science_Division/ → Research Opportunities

- Both MAPs (for science departments) and off-campus research

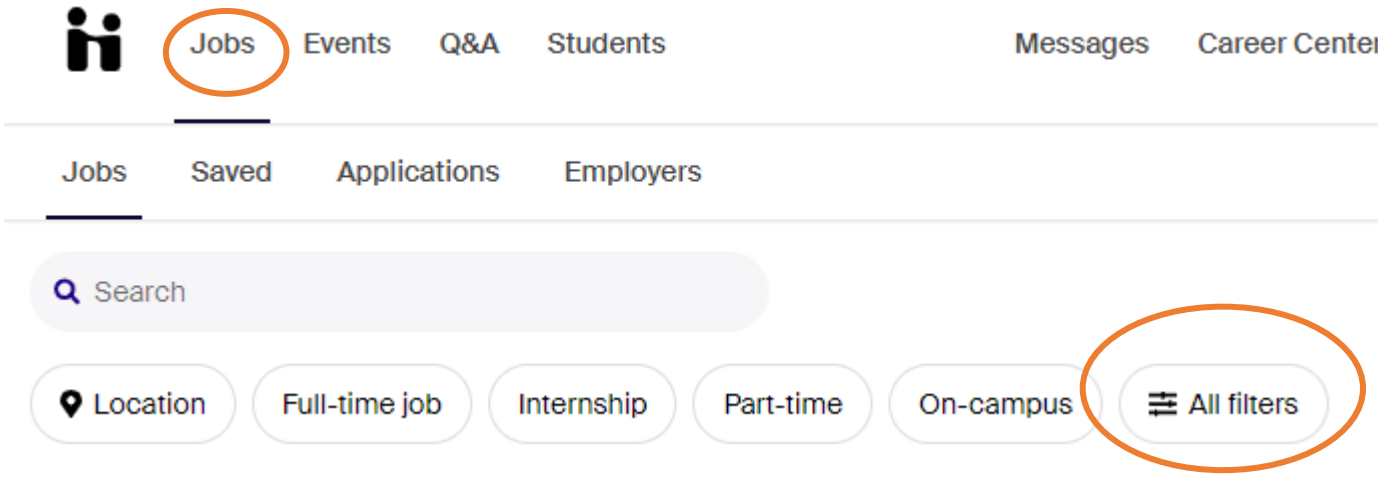
pathwaystoscience.org

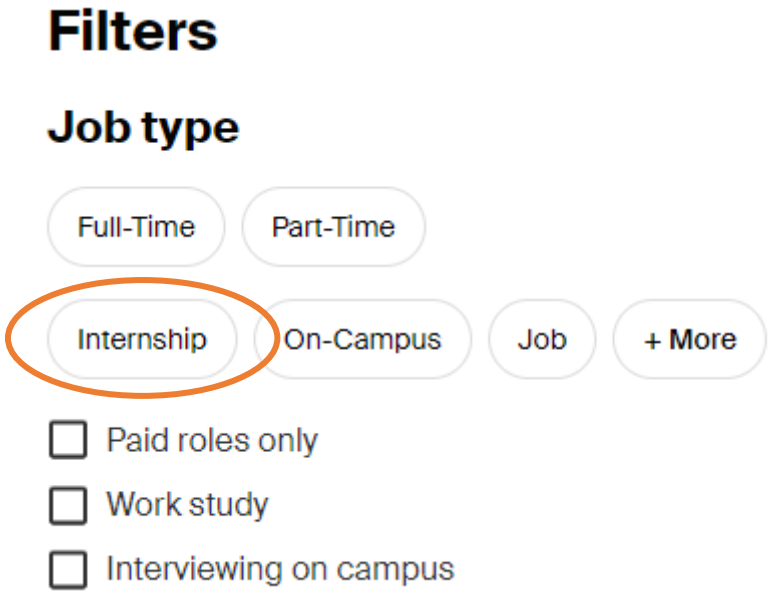
nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu → Search for an REU Site

Finding opportunities: networking

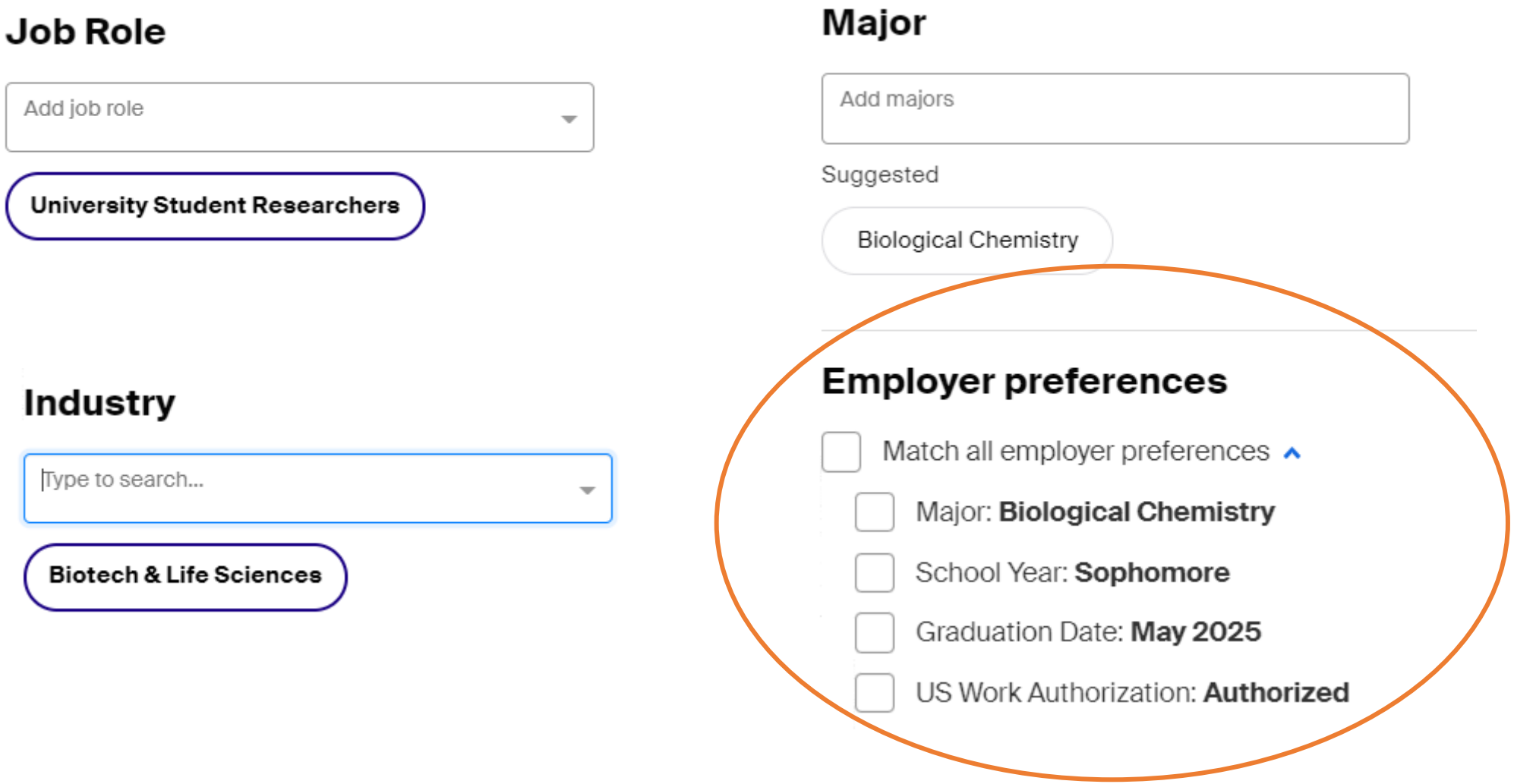
- Identify researchers doing interesting work and email them directly
  - Introduce yourself (Grinnell College, class year, major)
  - Express your interest in their work; be *brief* but *specific*
  - "Are there any opportunities to get involved with your research this summer?"
- Connect with alumni in your field of interest
  - LinkedIn, Grinnell Connect, GrinNetworking Facebook group

Finding opportunities: Handshake





Finding opportunities: Handshake



Considerations for F-1 students

- Always consult OISA: grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/OfficeOfInternationalStudentAffairs
- Enroll in INT-300 for academic credit if you are working in the US, not at Grinnell College
- In Handshake:
  - Are you legally authorized to work in the US? = YES
  - Will you now or in the future require visa sponsorship? = YES

Components to a successful application

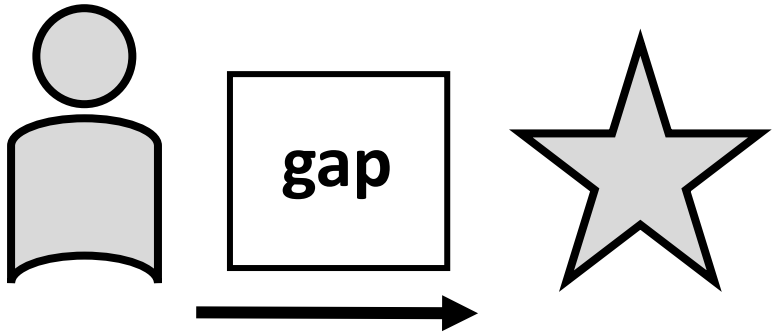
1. What will you **contribute** to this project?
    - What relevant experience and interests do you have?
        - Projects vary in what they expect of applicants: many do not expect much, if any, prior research experience.
    - What skills have you developed?
    - How will you be a valuable lab member?
        - Your **curiosity** is an asset!

Components to a successful application

2. How will you **benefit** from this project?
   - What gap will this project fill for you?
   - What skills and knowledge do you hope to gain during this summer experience, and why?
   - How does opportunity help you get from where you are now to your post-graduate goal? Be specific!

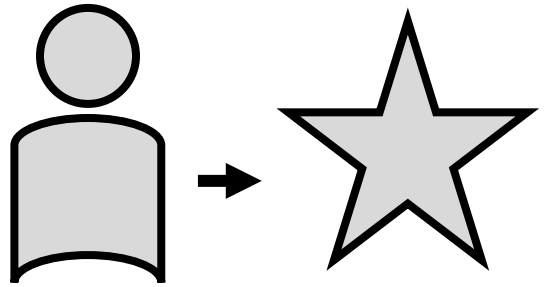
Components to a successful application

2. How will you **benefit** from this project?



Summer research adds…

Skills!
Knowledge!
Contacts!



More tips

- Your liberal arts education is a strength!
  - Highlight disciplinary breadth, critical thinking skills, and ability to examine issues through multiple lenses
- Use concrete details and specific examples
  - Talk about your specific role and the skills you used
  - Explain why you are drawn to the topics that interest you
- Follow directions very clearly
  - Specific prompt → answer every part of the question
  - Formatting instructions → follow them exactly

Letters of recommendation

- Best option: a professor in the field who knows you well and has supervised you in research
- Other options:
  - Your tutorial adviser
  - A professor for a class you did well in

- Get to know your faculty! Go to office hours; talk to them about your interests.

CLS resources

- STEM advising: Sarah Barks [barks] or your exploratory adviser
  - Schedule appointments via Handshake
  - Drop-in hours every afternoon *except Wednesday*, 2 – 4:30
  - STEM drop-in hours are on Tuesdays

- career.grinnell.edu