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

• 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

summer 2023 MAP apps due Feb. 26
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

**Job Role**
- University Student Researchers

**Major**
- Biological Chemistry

**Industry**
- Biotech & Life Sciences

**Employer preferences**
- Match all employer preferences
- Major: Biological Chemistry
- School Year: Sophomore
- Graduation Date: May 2025
- US Work Authorization: Authorized
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