



THE OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Liaisons for Undergraduate Research

The Office for Undergraduate Research sponsors the Liaisons for Undergraduate Research (LUR) program. LURs are graduate students, postdoctoral scholars or faculty members who are willing to talk with undergraduates about research opportunities in their departments. The goal of the LUR program is to expand undergraduate research by facilitating connections between undergraduate students and research opportunities.

Responsibilities of liaisons include:

- post a description of your willingness to meet with undergraduates in listing in the OUR Database of Research Opportunities. (See sample postings below.) [<http://cf.unc.edu/our/pubforms/browse.cfm>]
- spend 1 hour/week on average meeting and corresponding with students and faculty.
- meet twice a year with OUR staff to review best practices and/or changes for program.

Activities of past and current liaisons include:

Develop an “interest form” for undergraduates interested in research and maintain a database of those students for reference for future contact/referral to faculty.

Hold an interest/informational meeting for undergraduates in your department.

Meet with interested undergraduates individually or in groups to answer their questions about research opportunities, to help prepare them to approach a faculty member/lab, and/or to provide other kinds of professional development advice.

Encourage undergraduates to take advantage of resources created by LURs about preparing your cv and writing a contact email message [http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/students_liaisons.html].

Encourage undergraduates involved in research to consider presenting their work at the annual April Celebration of Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Encourage members of your department to integrate undergraduates into their research projects and to list these opportunities in the Database. [Note that some faculty members do not use the Database, but have arranged different dissemination processes with the LUR.]

Meet with new/incoming faculty to encourage them to consider providing opportunities for undergraduates.

Host periodic workshops on topics of interest for students (ex. how to write a research paper using Endnote, how to present a chalk talk, etc.).

You are encouraged to develop new activities that match your interests.

You can review a list of current LURs here: http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/students_liaisons.html

Here are some materials on our website that might be of interest as you advise students:

- Carolina Research Scholars Program. Students who meet the criteria will receive the designation “Carolina Research Scholar” on their transcript.
http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/students_crsp.html
- Celebration of Undergraduate Research Symposium. Please encourage students to register to present at our research symposium in April. http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/symposia/symposia_cur.html
- Conference Travel Funding. Students who present at a *professional* conference can apply for financial assistance with travel expenses.
http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/students_present_funding.html
- Here is a list of journals that publish undergraduate research:
http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/students/students_publish.html

Sample postings for Database of Research Opportunities listings

[<http://cf.unc.edu/our/pubforms/browse.cfm>]:

Posting A:

Cell and Molecular Physiology Research

Faculty Advisor: To Be Determined

Faculty Department: Cell and Molecular Physiology

Research Supervisor: Laurel Rodgers

Contact Info: rodgersl@med.unc.edu

Appropriate Student Majors: Biology

Position Type: Credit: yes; Pay: yes; Volunteer: yes

Position Availability: Fall: yes; Spring: yes; Summer: yes

Description:

I am the liaison for undergraduate research in the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology in the College of Medicine. My job is to help students find research opportunities within our department as well as provide guidance on how to obtain a career in research. Positions within our department include those for course credit, volunteer positions, and paid positions. Course credit and volunteer positions typically do not require experience and are a great way to learn about the research process. Paid positions are typically only available to students who already have some research experience. If you are interested in a position within our department then please e-mail me a copy of your resume or CV as well as information on your general interests and the type of position(s) you are seeking. I am also available by appointment for those of you who would like more information about what research involves and the steps necessary for graduate school and a research career. I look forward to hearing from you. – Laurel Rodgers

Posting B Description:

I am serving as a liaison for undergraduate research for the Neuroscience Center. If you are interested in learning more about potential research opportunities in the Neuroscience Center, feel free to contact me for more information (Sarah Shoemaker, sarah_shoemaker@med.unc.edu).

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