

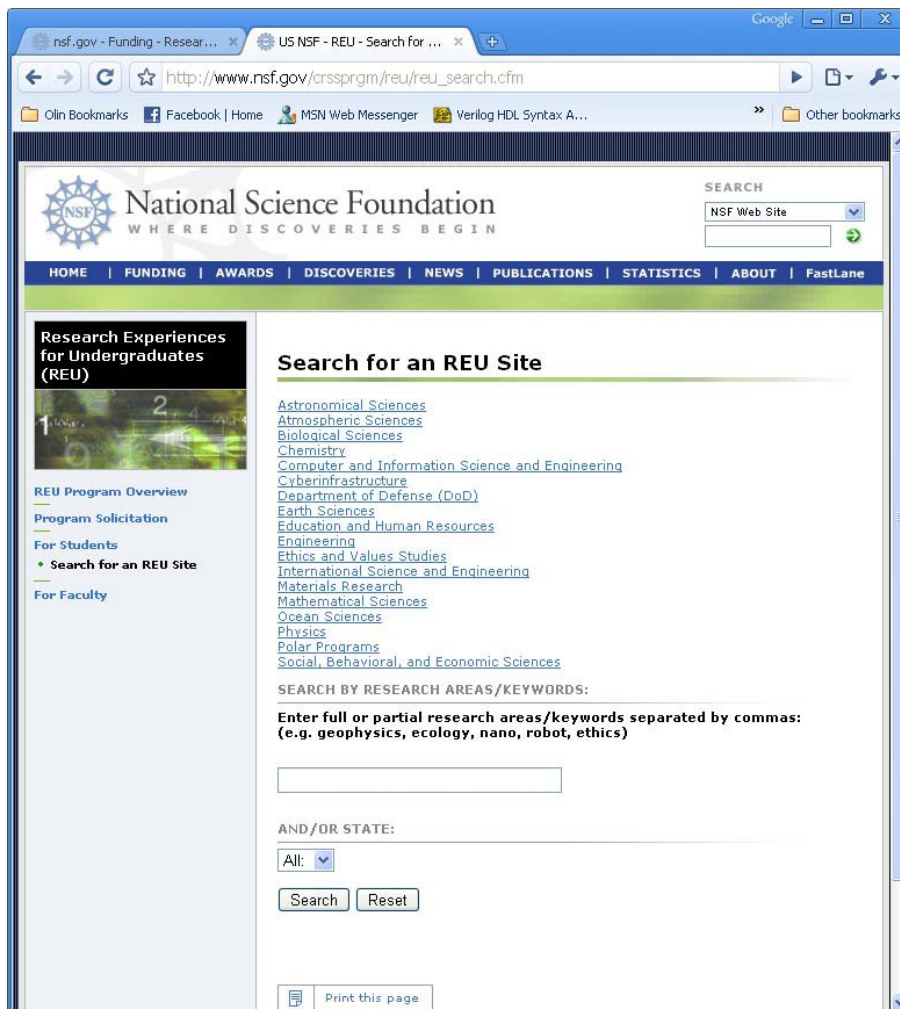
How to get an REU

Adapted from the [Olin College Post Graduate Planning](http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/GettingAnREU.pdf) web site:
<http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/GettingAnREU.pdf>

Step 1: Search for Current REUs

National Science Foundation REUs

Look up programs that have received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF):
http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm



[Main NSF REU web site](http://www.nsf.gov/crossprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm)

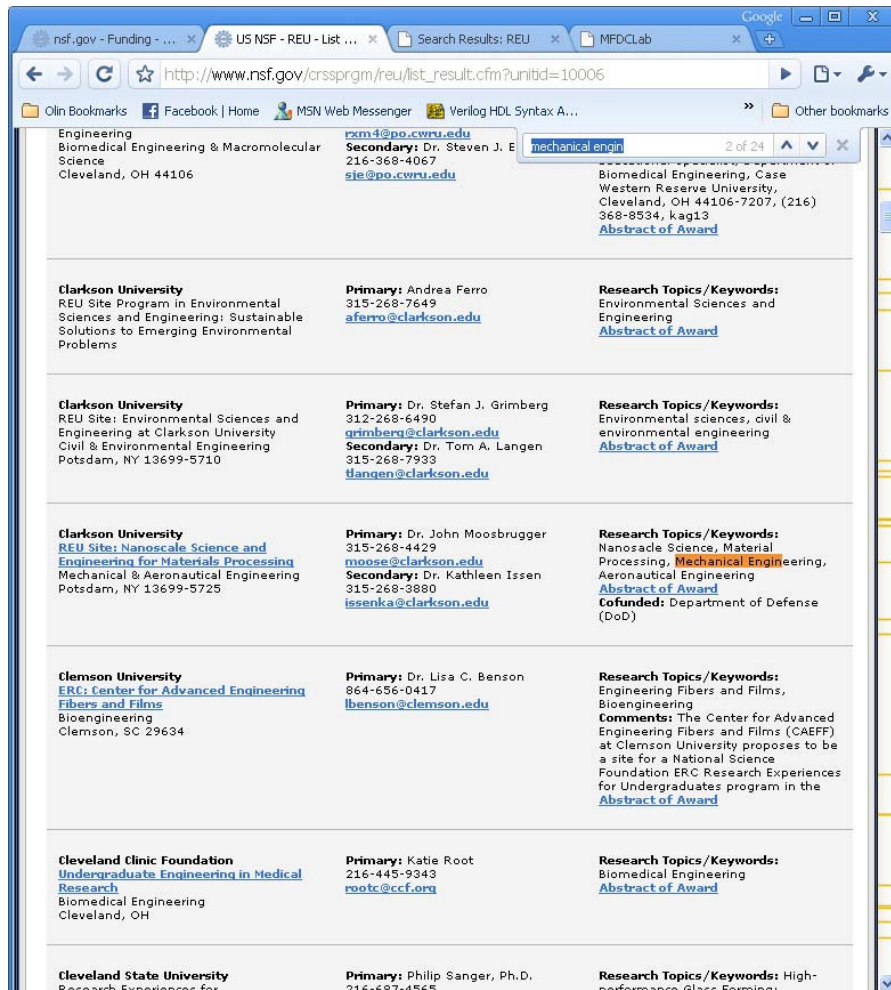
Click on the area of research that interests you, or use the keyword search to find more specialized results.

Other Summer Research

Other government agencies also provide summer research opportunities. Check out the National Institutes of Health <https://www.training.nih.gov/programs>; the Naval Research Lab <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Education-Outreach/undergraduate-graduate/NREIP-naval-internship.aspx> (and all the national laboratories) ; the Dept. of Energy <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/suli/> among others. There is also a nonprofit organization called Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) which maintains an extensive database of opportunities at www.qem.org. To find additional opportunities, do a keyword search in a web browser. Type in your major or your specific area of interest and the current year (2013) followed by “REU” or by “summer undergraduate research” or by the acronyms SURE (summer undergraduate research experience) or SURP (summer undergraduate research program).

Step 2: Explore your search results

As an example, here is a search for a mechanical engineering REU on the NSF web site:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying search results for 'mechanical engin' on the NSF website. The search results are organized into a table with columns for the sponsor, primary contact, secondary contact, and research topics/keywords. The search results are as follows:

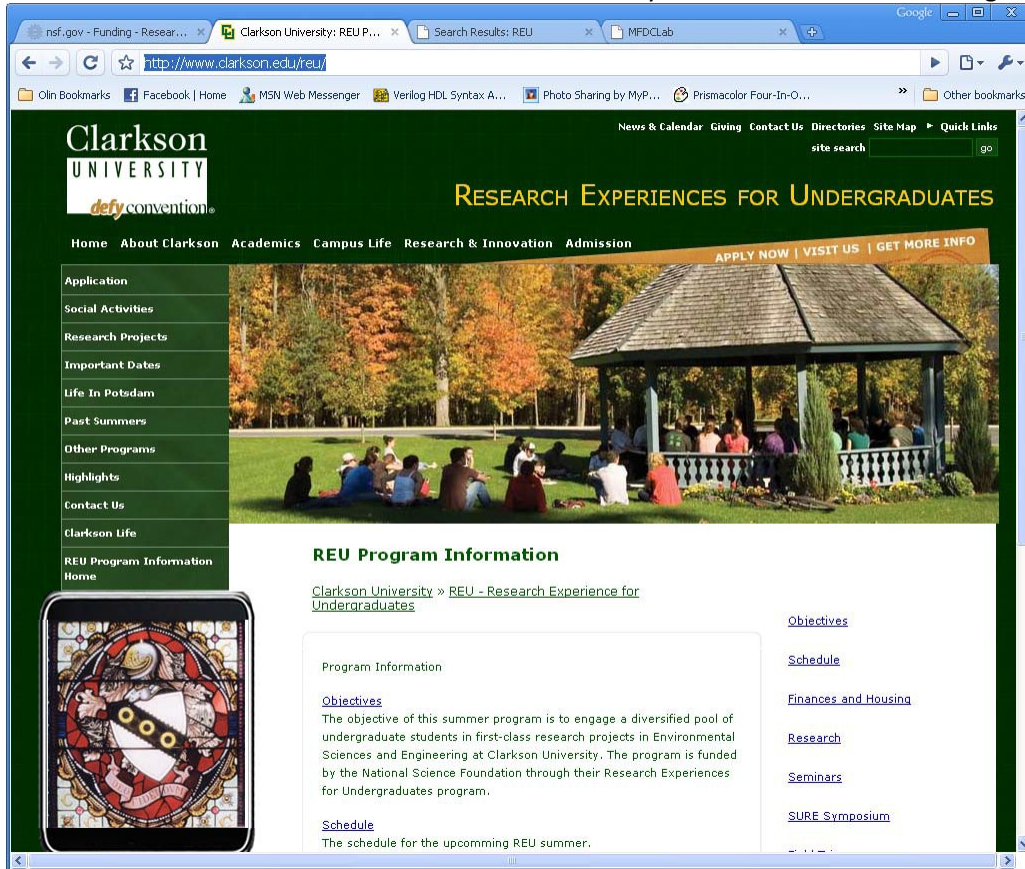
Sponsor	Primary Contact	Secondary Contact	Research Topics / Keywords
Engineering Biomedical Engineering & Macromolecular Science Cleveland, OH 44106	Primary: Dr. Steven J. E 216-368-4067 sje@po.cwru.edu	rsm4@po.cwru.edu	Biomedical Engineering, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106-7207, (216) 368-8534, kag13 Abstract of Award
Clarkson University REU Site Program in Environmental Sciences and Engineering. Sustainable Solutions to Emerging Environmental Problems	Primary: Andrea Ferro 315-268-7649 aferro@clarkson.edu		Research Topics / Keywords: Environmental Sciences and Engineering Abstract of Award
Clarkson University REU Site: Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Clarkson University Civil & Environmental Engineering Potsdam, NY 13699-5710	Primary: Dr. Stefan J. Grimberg 312-268-6490 grimberg@clarkson.edu Secondary: Dr. Tom A. Langen 315-268-7933 langen@clarkson.edu		Research Topics / Keywords: Environmental sciences, civil & environmental engineering Abstract of Award
Clarkson University REU Site: Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Materials Processing Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Potsdam, NY 13699-5725	Primary: Dr. John Moosbrugger 315-268-4429 moose@clarkson.edu Secondary: Dr. Kathleen Issen 315-268-3880 issenka@clarkson.edu		Research Topics / Keywords: Nanoscale Science, Material Processing, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering Abstract of Award Cofunded: Department of Defense (DoD)
Clemson University ERC: Center for Advanced Engineering Fibers and Films Bioengineering Clemson, SC 29634	Primary: Dr. Lisa C. Benson 864-656-0417 lbenson@clemson.edu		Research Topics / Keywords: Engineering Fibers and Films, Bioengineering Comments: The Center for Advanced Engineering Fibers and Films (CAEFF) at Clemson University proposes to be a site for a National Science Foundation ERC Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in the Abstract of Award
Cleveland Clinic Foundation Undergraduate Engineering in Medical Research Biomedical Engineering Cleveland, OH	Primary: Katie Root 216-445-9343 rootc@ccf.org		Research Topics / Keywords: Biomedical Engineering Abstract of Award
Cleveland State University Research Experiences for	Primary: Philip Sanger, Ph.D. 216-687-4565		Research Topics / Keywords: High-performance Glass Forming

NSF site search results

Click on the link; if for some reason the link doesn't work, go to the sponsor university's main web site. From there, search for REU or Mechanical Engineering Research to find the web page. Some schools

(like the Clarkson U. example below), have all their REU websites listed on one page, but usually you have to look department by department to find the mechanical engineering REUs vs. the math REUs vs. the materials science REUs.

Read the descriptions of the research at each site to find those that sound interesting to you. You may also want to think about whether this is a school that you would like to attend for graduate studies.



Clarkson College's web page for all REUs at that university

Step 3: Apply

The more REUs you apply to, the better your chances! On each one, check out the “eligibility” section to make sure you have the minimum requirements: GPA, major, class standing (sophomore, junior, senior), citizenship, etc. If you don't have the minimum requirements it is probably not worth your time to apply.

Also check the deadline to make sure it hasn't passed. Deadlines can be as early as January and as late as March.

Then note the application requirements. They are usually:

1. REU Program Application Form

2. Two letters of reference, either uploaded by the person writing or mailed in a sealed and signed envelope
3. Official undergraduate transcript(s) – you have to order this from the University registrar
4. Statement of interest in the program (sometimes called the “personal statement”), limited to two pages, where you talk about relevant experiences and why you would make a successful researcher)

Usual Timeline:

Thanksgiving	The websites should be updated with the current academic year information and applications.
Before Winter Break	Ask for letters of recommendations
Winter Break	Apply for at least six REUs (more would be preferable!) Send reminders to recommenders for REUs with an early due date
Spring Semester	Make sure recommendations have been sent

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