



Biology SURF Information for Summer 2024 - info session coming up

SURF Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships <surf@smith.edu>
 To: SURF Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships <surf@smith.edu>

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From: **Elizabeth Sylvan** <esylvan@smith.edu>
 Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 8:01 AM
 Subject: Biology SURF Information for Summer 2024 - info session coming up

Dear Biology Students,

If you are interested in participating in Biology Summer Research, please find details below and attend the 2/8 information session if you are able. We hope to also record this session, please reach out to esylvan@smith.edu for a link to the recording.

I want to do Biology research this summer!

We will be hosting an information session about Biology Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) on Thursday, February 8 at 4:30 pm in McConnell 103 with the option to zoom in at this link:

To join by computer, click this link: <https://smith.zoom.us/j/95066295242>

Meeting ID: 950 6629 5242

- Please bring any questions you may have about the process.
- You should also feel free to discuss options with your advisor in order to determine the summer options that best suit your needs.

(For questions about SURF programs in other departments, please reach out to that department's administrative assistant)

To participate in the Biology SURF program, here's what you need to do:

1. Review the list of [available 2024 SURF projects](#).
2. Make an appointment to talk to the appropriate faculty member(s) whose projects interest you. *This is a critical step: you will not be eligible to apply for a SURF position until you have spoken to the faculty member in charge of the project. In your application, you will have to designate the lab that you wish to be considered for, but you will also have the opportunity to indicate other labs/projects that caught your eye.*
3. Request an application by filling in the [Please send me a Biology SURF application](#) form.
4. Fill in the application by February 20.
5. Accepted students will be notified around March.
6. If you are offered a SURF position, please fill in the acceptance form when we send it to you.

Please also review the information below. If you have questions, please reach out to Lola Sylvan at esylvan@smith.edu, or to the faculty with whom you would like to work.

Summer Research

Summer research at any point in your Smith trajectory is an outstanding way to enhance your training, to help you explore your own preferences and passions, and to introduce you to a network of students and investigators that you will come to rely on as you build your career. Participating in a research project makes you part of the vast and exciting enterprise of knowledge creation.

Although summer may seem a long time away, it is time to start making plans. Many of you may be interested in research opportunities over the summer: some of you may have already taken initial steps, others may be thinking about it but don't quite know how to get started. Below are some things to consider as you get organized.

1. A significant number of summer research opportunities for undergraduates exist outside of Smith College as well as here at Smith.
2. As you begin to think about the ideal plan, do not limit your thinking only to Smith. The National Science Foundation (NSF), for instance, has a well-established network of summer research opportunities for undergraduates, broadly known as

"REU's". A searchable list of these REU's is available [here](#), and you can look for these opportunities based on geography or subdiscipline. Also investigate internship [opportunities](#) listed through the Lazarus Center for Career Development. [PRAXIS](#) funds are available to eligible students to support unpaid internships of interest.

3. Be aware that you can apply for both outside internships and a SURF slot.
4. Keep in mind that applying for a position at Smith or elsewhere does not guarantee acceptance. In past years, BIO has received roughly twice as many applications as we have funded slots. Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have spoken to the appropriate faculty member(s) prior to submitting your application. They will be candid about the availability of positions in their lab, and may direct you to a colleague with available SURF slots.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, our administrative assistant, Iola Sylvan, or any member of the department with any questions you may have.

Cheers,
David

Professor L. David Smith
Chair, Department of Biological Sciences
Smith College

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Students: Need a BIO adviser? Fill in the [Bio Department Advising Form](#) to help us match you with someone.