

# Research Experiences for Undergraduates

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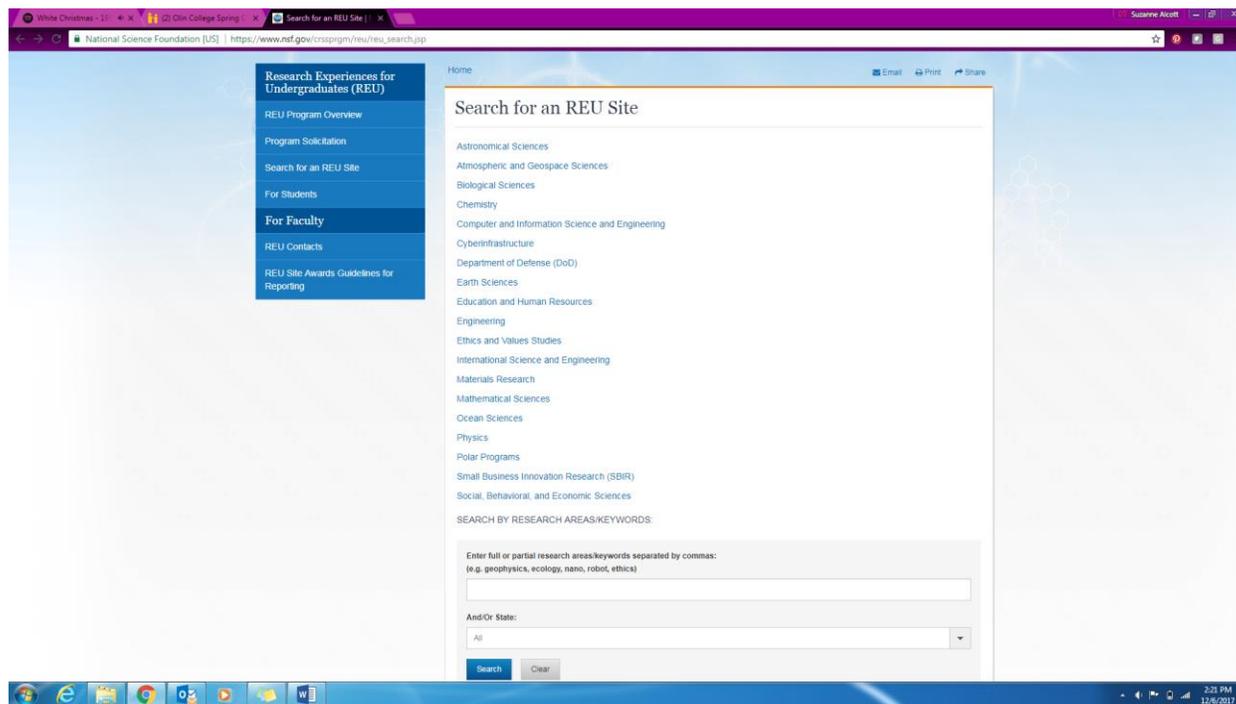
## Step 1: Search for REUs

Look up what programs have received funding from the NSF, the National Science Foundation:

[http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu\\_search.cfm](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm) for additional ways to search for opportunities (first year, international and DACA students) check out the REU Finder - <https://reufinder.com/>

REU Finder for International Students - <https://reufinder.com/programs-for-international-students-daca-undocumented-students/>

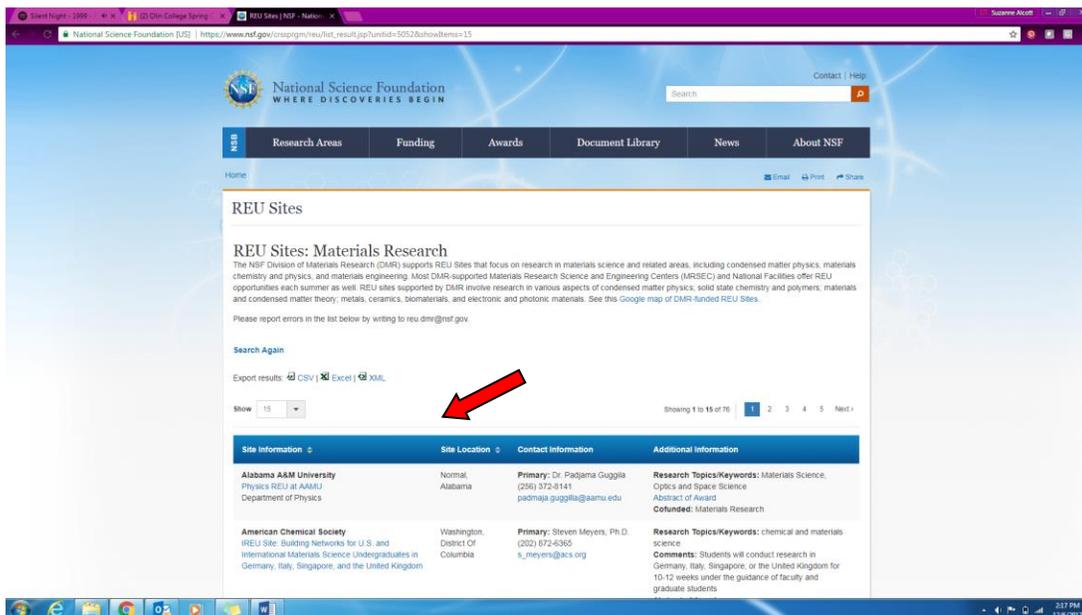
REU Finder for First Years - <https://reufinder.com/programs-for-freshmen/>



Click on Engineering or another area of research keeping in mind that sometimes AHS related REUs can have tie-ins to engineering education. This is your big chance to explore things outside of Olin either at a big research university or in a non-engineering field.

## Step 2: Find an REU Site

As an example, Search for materials:



The list of opportunities can be quite large but if you export the results into Excel, you can then search by keyword or location. If the link on the NSF website is broken, go directly to the website of the college, i.e. <http://www.boisestate.edu/> and search for REU or Summer Research to find the web-page with information on the program at that institution.

### Step 3: Apply

Now you just need to find one that interests you and apply

Here are the application requirements for most programs:

Each applicant for the Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates will have to provide the following information, **by the application deadline (these will vary depending on the program but usually between February and March)**

1. REU Program Application Form
2. At least two references (get these sooner rather than later as **faculty are busy!** We suggest giving them at least two weeks lead time)
3. Transcript
  - a. For an electronic version, please log into the [Olin portal](#) and choose the **MyStar tab** (there will be a small fee for an official copy from the clearinghouse, but you can print out your unofficial transcript for free)
4. Statement of interest in the program, limited to two pages (state relevant experiences and why you would make a successful researcher)
  - a. Start with Gillian - [gepstein@olin.edu](mailto:gepstein@olin.edu) to help tell your story
  - b. Aarti - [achellakere@olin.edu](mailto:achellakere@olin.edu) will then edit personal statements for grammar, punctuation, and flow

### Step 4: Timeline

1. Now
  - a. Begin Thinking about where you want to live, what you want to work on
    - i. Narrow by location
    - ii. Narrow by Program
    - iii. Narrow by where you want to go to Grad School
  - b. Make list of programs you are interested in and check their websites regularly
  - c. E-mail professors at other institutions about their research so you can get an idea of the programs you want to apply for

2. Winter Break
  - a. Apply for 8-10 REUs
  - b. Remind Olin Profs about letters of recommendations
3. Jan. 1 – first rounds of due dates
4. Feb. 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Due dates
5. March 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Due dates

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