

# How Do I Get into Research?

*Tips from a Biology Undergrad*

-on research. Perhaps

a first

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**If you have absolutely no clue:**

A good starting point is the science section of newspapers, news sites, and other secondary sources. T

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Later you can visit their websites and foray into their publications. This will give you a better sense of not just what kinds of questions they are trying to answer, but what specific methods they are using. This will be useful when deciding \_\_\_\_\_ work and what kinds of skills you want to develop. Use this information to further refine your list but keep your options open!

Once you have a solid list of the labs/professors you are interested in working with, you can take the next step.

### **Part 3: Reaching Out**

Now that you know which labs you are interested in, \_\_\_\_\_ time to reach out to make yourself known. You should make yourself well-acquainted with the \_\_\_\_\_ papers (again, you can search these via \_\_\_\_\_ on Google Scholar or the Library system). This can really set you apart from other applicants. It is standard practice to make first contact by sending an email \_\_\_\_\_ research and in possibly working in their lab.

Some people will simply \_\_\_\_\_, but this is not optimal. Others will briefly mention a specific \_\_\_\_\_ main findings and why they find them interesting, which is a slightly stronger approach. The best bet, however, is to dive into what this professor has been publishing and to highlight a specific recurring idea/theme or a specific element of their methodology, goals, etc., that speaks to you. If you can pose a question about what future research in a given topic might look like based on what has been done already, you will really stand out. This is not necessary, but it can help you significantly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your research is your \_\_\_\_\_ work and therefore probably of great importance to you. As \_\_\_\_\_ students interested in working with you, you most likely want to find those that will have something of value to contribute, and who seem to really care. If

you find a student who has taken the time to *really*

mention things beyond just your abstracts, that demonstrates great interest  
you would want on your team.

Even if you are not taking in new students at the moment, keep them in  
mind when you do.

**Other things that are important to keep in mind:**

Make sure to have a solid resume, and one that is tailored to present  
you as an attractive candidate. For a template and guidelines on how to  
do this, the UR Career Center can be of great help.

Think of relevant experiences you might have. You may not have any  
direct research experience, but you could have some tangentially related  
skills that apply. For example, I work at an entomology lab, and just  
mentioning that I have handled insects for fun since I was a child made the  
professor say I would fit right into their team! Letting the professor know  
what labs and relevant classes you have already taken can also be a good  
idea in some cases.