The REU FAQ
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• **RE – What???
  o (R)esearch (E)xperience for (U)ndergraduates = a program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to encourage promising Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students to experience research at the pre-baccalaureate level

• **How does the REU help me?**
  o Research exposure is a great way to discover if you are interested in graduate school, to hone your analytical skills no matter what path you take in your career
  o REU is a prestigious and nationally recognized program which is helpful in building your resume
  o REU programs can be a great way to gain experience even before tackling corporate or industry internships; REU can complement work experiences

• **What will I do at my REU?**
  o Cutting edge research, working with other undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty Principal Investigators (PIs) to build critical thinking skills and introduces you to research techniques and practices.
  o At the end of the REU term, students share research results in poster sessions, presentations, or conferences

• **When can I do an REU program in my academic track?**
  o Most REU programs require completion of 30 credits and/or junior status
• **When are REU programs offered?**
  o Most are summer programs; 10 weeks long; usually from June till August

• **Where are REU programs offered?**
  o REU programs are offered on university campuses around the US and there are also international opportunities

• **Is housing provided?**
  o Yes, usually the REU provides housing and meals in campus facilities

• **Will I get paid?**
  o Yes, REU programs provide a stipend, usually $350-$500 weekly, for a total of $3500-$5000 payment for the summer
  o Usually the REU provides travel support (airfare, mileage reimbursement)

• **What areas of research are available?**
  o REU programs cover a wide range of topics in STEM
  o You can also search by topic area or geographically

• **When do I apply for REU opportunities?**
  o REU websites are updated in the fall prior to the program dates; applications are usually due starting around January 1 and most are due before April 1

• **What do I need to submit to apply for the REU program?**
  o Most applications request a resume and recommendation letters

• **How do I search for REU opportunities?**
  o Use the online link to the NSF REU site:
  o Search by university—just use the school search box and ‘REU’

  **For more information please contact:**
  o College of Engineering Career Services [ahelmers@miami.edu](mailto:ahelmers@miami.edu)