**HOW TO FIND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES 2019**

*Health professions schools value research experience for a number of reasons. Research can show your intellectual curiosity, logic, and critical thinking skills as well as your ability to formulate research questions and hypotheses. You may learn to read and evaluate published journal articles, assess statistical data, write effectively , and work as a member of a team. You may ask your research mentor to write a letter of recommendation for you as they will know you and your work personally.*

If you are just beginning in research, you might first volunteer in a research lab, join a research team like Bass Connections, take an R-coded course, or find a work/study job in a research lab or office. Later, you might choose to enroll in a 1.0 credit research independent study. Completing research independent studies in your senior year can be the basis of an honors thesis and Graduation with Distinction. You can also find summer programs entirely devoted to research. While much research is done in the natural sciences like biology, chemistry, and neuroscience, you can also find research opportunities in the arts, humanities and social sciences. If you have an interest in academic medicine (i.e., MD/PhD programs), you will want to demonstrate several years of research experience in your field of interest.

**Resources for finding research opportunities:**

**1. UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE:** This office can provide you with a great deal of information about how to get started in research, opportunities, summer research programs at Duke and elsewhere, undergraduate research links, grants you can apply for, assistantships, and much more. Check out these webpages to get started:

[undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/](http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/)

[undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/how-begin](http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/how-begin)

**2. MUSER**: Use Muser to search and apply for posted research positions in **ALL** fields, *including* humanities and the social sciences, during regularly-scheduled application periods. [muser.biology.duke.edu](https://muser.biology.duke.edu/)

**3. EXPLORE YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS AT DUKE:** If you already know a topic you would like to research, see if there are Duke faculty and researchers conducting research in that area: [scholars.duke.edu](https://scholars.duke.edu/)

**4. DEPARTMENTS**: Check the websites of departments/programs (i.e., majors, certificate programs) in which you are interested to find information on current research projects or a listing of faculty and their projects. Many times staff members in these offices will know of faculty who are looking for assistance with a research project.

**5. RESEARCH INDEPENDENT STUDY:** A Research Independent Study course or the equivalent, e.g. a thesis course, is the mechanism for students to engage in individual research in a field of special interest under the guidance of a faculty member and earn academic credit for this research. <https://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/urs-guidelines/research-independent-study-information>

**6. PRATT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING RESEARCH INFO**:   [pratt.duke.edu/research](http://pratt.duke.edu/research)

**7. COURSE INSTRUCTORS:** Are you enjoying a class and would like to go deeper in the topic through research? Ask the instructor if he/she is conducting research on the topic or if he/she can refer you to someone else who is.

**8. DUKE LIST:** Research opportunities with faculty are frequently posted here [dukelist.duke.edu](http://dukelist.duke.edu/)

**9. HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES:** Research opportunities in the arts, humanities, and social sciences are available at Duke. There are a number of interdisciplinary programs where faculty, undergraduates, graduate students and others work as teams, and the projects are often ones in which you can participate over a number of semesters. You could take an associated class, attend events, volunteer, join a team, conduct a research project, and/or enroll in a research independent study. See the examples below. Also check the departments in which you are considering a major to see what they might offer.

**BASS CONNECTIONS:**  <https://bassconnections.duke.edu/>

**HUMANITIES WRIT LARGE:**  <https://humanitieswritlarge.duke.edu/projects/undergraduate-research>

**DUKE WIRED:**   Application of technology to the study of culture, art, urban history and architecture [dukewired.org](http://dukewired.org/)

**HART LEADERSHIP PROGRAM RESEARCH SERVICE LEARNING:** <https://hart.sanford.duke.edu/programs/sol/>

**FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE HEALTH HUMANITIES LAB**: <https://sites.fhi.duke.edu/healthhumanitieslab/>

**DUKE IMMERSE**:  Four courses, one semester on a current issue   [sites.duke.edu/dukeimmerse/](http://sites.duke.edu/dukeimmerse/)

**10. DIRECTORS OF ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT:** If you want to integrate your research with service and academics, schedule an appointment with a DAE to discover and discuss options and opportunities ([advising.duke.edu/dae](https://advising.duke.edu/dae))

**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

1. When you first contact faculty to ask about a particular research opportunity, include information about yourself - see the URS tips at [undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/tips-contacting-mentors](http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/tips-contacting-mentors)

2. Keep a journal or notebook of your research: what you do, techniques you learn, outcomes of your research, and goals of the research (why the project is being done and why is it important). Record your reflections on why this research has been meaningful to you, and if it has influenced your career goals (and how), future course selections, or additional research experiences. Think about core competencies you are developing while engaging in research. <https://www.aamc.org/admissions/dataandresearch/477182/corecompetencies.html>

3. Keep track of details: the name of your research mentor(s) and their title(s), department, and contact information. Record the beginning and ending dates and the total number of hours of your research experience.

4. Read articles published by your research mentor or that apply to your work.

5. When you have completed your research experience, thank your research mentor or group. IT IS **ALWAYS** APPROPRIATE TO SAY THANK YOU!

6. Add the research experience to your resume.

7. Use best practices: be respectful and responsible, show up as scheduled and only cancel for emergencies, and be knowledgeable about following safety precautions and protocols, if applicable. When you work with others, you represent Duke and other Duke students, so remember that your responsibilities and achievements will reflect on the University as well.