

# TIPS TO APPLY TO A SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE



- ✓ **Visit [Plantae.org/internships](https://plantae.org/internships) to find summer research opportunities** and resources for National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergrads (REU), United States Department of Agriculture Research Experience, and many other types of paid research program.
- ✓ **Connect with your advisor and mentors early about summer research opportunities.** Discuss your interest in participating in summer research opportunities early and often with your advisor/mentor. The most competitive applicants are getting essay writing support and guidance on their applications.
- ✓ **Apply only to programs that you are eligible for** before the deadline. Late applications are usually not accepted.
- ✓ If you have any uncertainties about applying for the program e-mail the contact person before you apply to the program.
- ✓ **Apply to more than one program.** Many of these programs get hundreds of applications for less than a dozen slots so apply to about five programs minimum.

Most programs have 4 similar requirements:

## 1. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



Be sure to give your recommender(s) adequate time to write a polished letter of recommendation. Give them as much information as possible about you, the program you're applying to, and how you see this internship as beneficial to your goals. Send your recommender a copy of your resume and personal statement. Applicant reviewers prefer letters from STEM faculty or mentors who know your potential.

## 2. PERSONAL STATEMENT/ESSAY



The personal statement is the piece of your application that tells the most about your goals, interests, passion, and experience. Things to consider when starting your statement:

- Familiarize yourself with the program
- Talk about the research or labs you're interested in at the institution and why
- Ask for help and have multiple people to critically review your draft essay.

### **Readers should be able to quickly understand:**

- The origin of your interest in a field of study
- The growth of that interest over a period of time (as illustrated by experience) and how it supports your professional goals.

## 3. UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

- Used to see relevant courses and grades.

## 4. RESUME

- Used to enhance your essay with work or volunteer experience