



COSTA RICA

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

Are you curious about the natural world?



We are looking for undergraduate African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders, who are curious about the natural world, and also:

- are adventurous
- are willing to invest their summer months doing original research in the tropical forests of Costa Rica
- are willing to integrate their research experience into their future careers by presenting their results
- are willing to make new friends and scientific contacts from across the globe
- are willing to work hard, and take full advantage of this stupendous opportunity that is truly a stepping stone towards a scientific career



"Coming from native and pacific islander backgrounds, we all understood the impacts of being minority in the scientific field. Such an opportunity like this gave us confidence in reaching success in the field."

What is REU?

REU is a summer opportunity for undergraduate African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders students to complete ecological research. It takes place at the OTS La Selva Research Station and OTS Las Cruces Research Station, through support of the NSF Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP). Summer funding allows student interns to complete an original research project while guided by experienced researchers.

For program dates, deadlines and detailed information, please visit:

www.tropicalstudies.org/reu

REU Highlights

- Design and carry out original scientific research in a tropical rain forest.
- Introduction to tropical biodiversity and ecology.
- Ideal conditions for research on forest fragmentation, restoration ecology, water quality, tropical biodiversity, and climate change.
- Daily contact with experienced scientists from a variety of biological disciplines.
- Presentation of results in the internet-broadcast REU symposium.





Ten reasons why you should apply to REU if you are African American, Hispanic American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Native Pacific Islander

1. REU is an opportunity to immerse yourself in your own scientific research project.
2. Participating students come from similar, but diverse cultural backgrounds.
3. Each year REU students come from many educational backgrounds including isolated community colleges, tribal colleges, and other LSAMP institutions.
4. Summer activities include instruction in research methods, tropical ecology, statistical analysis and scientific writing.
5. One-on-one mentoring during your individual research project.
6. This paid 9 week summer internship covers all travel and basic living expenses in addition to giving you a stipend.
7. Make life-time contacts with scientists outside of your home institution.
8. Gain international experience.
9. The program is adaptable to your interests, skills, and abilities, as you can either develop a novel independent project from conception to presentation or you can collect and present data from an important piece of an ongoing research project.
10. Lack of experience does not limit participation and completion of REU.



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"I liked that everything was independent and hands on. I got the opportunity to design and execute a research project, something that most undergrads would never be "trusted" to do on their own."

Questions?

Please contact:
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www.tropicalstudies.org/reu



Organization for
Tropical Studies



How to apply

Click on the Apply Now button on the program page and follow the online instructions to fill out the application on-line. At the end of the application you will be required to upload the following documents in pdf format:

- A letter of recommendation from your Home Mentor (download the mentor recommendation form)
- A letter of recommendation from a Science Professor (download the science recommendation form)
- Official transcripts