

Are you interested in hosting Rice undergraduate researchers?

The following information and posting template will assist those interested in recruiting undergraduate students to your research groups. We can guide you through the process.

If you are interested in recruiting Rice undergraduates, you can send us an ad containing your lab's focus, potential projects for students, number of openings, required experience (if any), compensation (pay, course credit, and/or volunteer/research intern*) and contact information (see posting template on the last page). We can post your ad to one or more of our lists and leave it up for a predetermined time or until you notify us that your positions are filled.

When determining the nature of your opportunity, remember that project and mentoring expectations of students receiving course credit differ from those of students hired to perform technician roles. We ask that for-credit researchers be given somewhat independent projects, that they be able to meet their hosting professors at least once a week, and, perhaps most importantly, that they be assigned to an individual (usually an experienced graduate student or postdoc) who has an interest in training undergraduates and the time to mentor them daily throughout the semester or summer. Research positions may be paid or unpaid. We ask that technician-like positions (e.g., cleaning glassware and database maintenance) be paid. When posting unpaid research internships with/without course credit, we define them as “research intern positions” rather than “volunteer” positions to reflect the educational nature of the apprenticeship.

Students typically search for opportunities the semester before beginning their research (~March-April for fall, ~October-November for spring). Students search for summer opportunities throughout the spring semester (see Rice [academic calendars](#) for semester start and end dates). While there is no significant administrative lag for students accepted into Rice labs, faculty outside of Rice should plan to recruit students at least two months before the intended start date. Most TMC institutions typically take 4-10+ weeks to process student onboarding.

Rice resources for students: All our students have access to various Rice advising resources (departmental advising, the Center for Career Development, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry, the Center for Academic and Professional Communication, etc.), which can provide career advising, presentation opportunities and advising for scientific writing and communication. With instructor permission, students can also participate in departmental research courses that provide additional structure and instruction. These courses typically require 3 hours of research per week for each credit (~9h/week for 3 credits) and have a communication component such as a research paper or poster presentation. Note: Rice students performing research off campus do not bring their own funding as campus fellowships do not typically transfer to other institutions.

Please see the following pages for contact information and an opportunity posting template.

*If you are seeking volunteers, please make sure that your institution will allow undergraduates to perform research without pay. Some departments permit simultaneous pay and credit.

Sharing your opportunities with Rice advisors and students

Thank you for your interest in hosting our Rice undergraduate researchers! * **

Please contact us if you have any questions or are ready to post an opening. We have numerous departmental and general mailing lists that can target our research-interested undergraduates. You can send your opportunities to one or more faculty contacts listed below by area of study. If unsure where to direct your opportunity, please send your questions or opportunities to Dereth Phillips (derethp@rice.edu). A template for undergraduate research postings is included on the next page.

Biosciences: biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolutionary biology

Dereth Phillips, derethp@rice.edu

Neuroscience

Jon Flynn, flynn@rice.edu

Chemistry

Kasey Leigh Yearty, klyearty@rice.edu

Health sciences, public health, and health promotion

Heidi Perkins, hperkins@rice.edu

Sports medicine, exercise physiology

Augusto Rodriguez, Augusto.X.Rodriguez@rice.edu (Aug-Jan); Nadia Agha, na66@rice.edu (Jan 2026-)

Mathematics

Betul Orcan-Ekmekci, orcan@rice.edu

Physics, astronomy

Frank Geurts, geurts@rice.edu

Environmental science

Ari Johnson, rj33@rice.edu

Planetary and earth science/geosciences

Ari Johnson, rj33@rice.edu

*This solicitation is **only for undergraduate research positions**. To post full-time job openings for graduating seniors and alumni, please see the Rice Office of Career Development's [Post a Job/Internship](#) page and post to the 12twenty portal.

**We reserve the right to refuse to post if we determine that a particular research environment may not be appropriate for our undergraduates. If you would like additional advice on creating a fertile environment for undergraduates, you are welcome to contact Dereth Phillips or any other individuals listed above.

Suggested format for posting opportunities to Rice undergraduate researchers.

Posting subject line: [e.g., “Research internship in organic synthesis,” “Undergraduate physics internship at NASA,” “Summer research in computational cancer biology,” “Paid technician position in a drosophila genetics lab,” “Environmental research with the Nature Conservancy,” “Undergraduate research in cellular neuroscience”]

Professor: [name, Ph.D., MD, etc.]

Department: [primary and secondary depts.]

Institution: [full name, not abbreviated, e.g., Baylor College of Medicine]

Openings: [In this section you would answer the questions: How many openings? Starting when? For what term (summer, fall, spring, multiple semesters)? Full/part-time/hours per week (9-12/hr. per week is typical during the school year)? For what, if any, compensation? In-person or virtual? If you are recruiting students for a research internship, to what possible projects would the student be assigned? Or, if the job will be a technician position, what tasks would the student be given? What experience (if any) is required?]

Lab focus: [Briefly, what is your research group’s central problem/question? If this project has applications that might interest students (e.g., environmental, medical, industrial), mention these.]

Techniques: [Does your research group use techniques typical to ecology, environmental science, physiology, public health, molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, computational biology, biochemistry, structural biology, organic synthesis, nanotechnology, materials science, spectroscopy and imaging, theoretical biology/chemistry, bioengineering, biophysics, nuclear/particle physics, astronomy, earth science, etc.? You could mention any equipment, field sites, techniques, model organisms, or other resources that might attract a student to your group.]

Location: [Where is your lab/field site (street address, building, floor)? How far (walking distance) from Rice? If a car would be required to reach the research site, mention this.]

Environment/ Personnel: [What is the make-up of the group? (e.g., “The lab is composed of 5 graduate students and 3 postdocs,” or “We share an open lab space and participate in joint lab meetings with the Chan lab,” or “We are a new group, so the student would be advised directly by the professor,” or “We have a very vibrant international lab,” or “Our postdoctoral researchers have a lot of experience mentoring graduate students and undergraduates.”)]

Student research philosophy: [How do you see undergraduates fitting into your group? What do you see as your group’s role in their training? What do you expect of them?]

To apply/Contact information: [Include the PI name and contact information. Link to the PI/lab web page. Request brief information (e.g., “mention any relevant college or high school coursework,” “include a brief statement of interest in this area,” “mention any previous experience in lab courses or research,” “novices are welcome, but if you have previous experience, feel free to list this”). Most young students won’t have a CV yet, so you may get a quicker response if you ask for brief information that would make a difference to you.]

Note: course credit for research performed in this lab requires prior approval from a Rice University course instructor. Students should aim to apply to the instructor for course credit at least a month before the start of the semester to ensure that their experience and proposed projects will meet the course requirements and that there is sufficient time to complete the hosting institution’s paperwork and training. International students must consult with the Office of International Students and Scholars before applying for any off-campus positions.