AVENUES FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Through faculty-sponsored research, undergraduates help acquire new knowledge at the forefront of their fields, develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving, express their creativity, and benefit from mentoring by faculty. All of the 240+ faculty members in the Dornsife college conduct research and other scholarly activity, and most are willing to involve undergraduate students. The following are specific examples:

Bridging the Gap Keck School of Medicine
The program’s aim is to address the under-representation of minority students within medicine and the biological sciences. Students will conduct summer research for eight weeks in the laboratories of Keck faculty who will serve as mentors. Students will be provided with both a clinical and basic science perspective. Additionally, all students will attend weekly seminars on health disparities and receive formal instruction in basic physiology and biostatistics. At the end of the summer session, students will present their research findings to the Keck community. All participants will receive a stipend, roundtrip transportation from home and university housing.

Bridge Undergraduate Science Program (BUGS)
Undergraduate students in the program pair with a USC faculty member and often collaborate with graduate student or postdoctoral mentors to perform hands-on research in USC research labs.

Center for International Studies
The Center for International Studies provides a number of funding opportunities for faculty, students and postdoctoral researchers. For more information on any of the programs funded by CIS, please email cis@dornsife.usc.edu

Center for Religion and Civic Culture
Sponsors approximately 12 research grants (up to $1,500) to undergraduates for faculty-sponsored research on religion and culture.

Directed Research Courses
Directed Research (490x) is student-proposed, faculty supervised research that can be used to earn from two to eight units of elective credit. Students must conduct research under a professor, and must present their work. Specific enrollment requirements may vary from department to department, however, directed research is usually intended for juniors and seniors who have excelled in the major and have developed a specific research interest.

Genomics and Geology Undergraduate Research Experience (GGURE)
GGURE is an undergraduate research internship program at the University of Southern California that offers students the opportunity of participating in a research group and conducting research with a faculty mentor. Paid positions in summer and academic year/Emphasis in STEM fields preferred (including life science, earth and marine science, computational science, and engineering)/underrepresented students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Interdisciplinary Studies
Collaborative Learning Projects allow students to work together on a student-designed learning experience and earn unit credit.

Jesse M Unruh Institute of Politics - Undergraduate Research Scholars
Outstanding undergraduates participate in the research of Political Science faculty members.

Joint Educational Project
Each year over 2,000 students enroll in one of several JEP courses that combine academic coursework with hands-on experience in neighborhoods surrounding the university. Students may also participate as volunteers on a non-credit basis.

Levan Institute
The Institute collaborates with departments, professional schools, and programs across the university to bring students and faculty together with authors and artists, philosophers and practitioners, and the ethical voices of our time.

Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
Offers basic research and graduate education in the field of hydrocarbon chemistry
Maymester
Maymester are standalone offerings that provide exceptional opportunities for research and experiential learning off campus, throughout the United States, or even abroad. The course offerings may be found in Special Sections in the USC Catalogue.

Programs in Biomedical and Biological Sciences (PIBBS at USC)
Programs in Biomedical and Biological Sciences (PIBBS) is the gateway into interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs at Keck Medicine of USC. The goal of PIBBS is to recruit top caliber Ph.D. students in the biomedical and biological sciences to USC and to guide them in the identification of a mentor, lab, and research project that will provide rigorous scientific training, an outstanding Ph.D. thesis, and a strong foundation for a variety of science-related careers. The following interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs are part of PIBBS.

Problems without Passports
USC students have the opportunity this summer to participate in six Problems without Passports courses that combine problem-based or inquiry learning research exercises with study in a foreign country, Washington D.C., or Los Angeles.

Program for Environmental and Regional Equity
The Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC conducts research and facilitates discussions on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, social movement building, and immigrant integration.

USC Shoah Foundation- The Institute for Visual History and Education
Periodically offers research stipends for scholars and students who wish to use the testimony archive for research or teaching.

Summer Humanities Undergraduate Research Experience (SHURE)
For USC Dornsife students to pursue research in conjunction with Dornsife faculty members, either on or off campus, during the summer semester. Students should apply to SHURE if they are working with a faculty mentor in the Humanities.

Space Science Center
Research in the space sciences is carried out by the Space Sciences Center and Department of Physics and Astronomy. Missions include rocket launches at White Sands Missile Range (usually during the summer) as well as experiments aboard the Space Shuttle.

Student Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR)
Provides students up to $1,000 of support for any non-course related research activity conducted during the fall or spring semesters. Students must have a faculty sponsor.

Summer Undergraduate Research Fun (SURF)
Through SURF, USC College students may receive up to $3,000 to support a summer research project under the supervision of a USC faculty member.

Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Funds
Provides grants up to $1,000 for undergraduate student projects with faculty sponsors.

USC Davis School of Gerontology
USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology faculty and students are constantly pushing the boundaries of their various disciplines both in and out of the lab. Several broad areas of focus spark curiosity and collaboration in researchers at all levels, and their goal is to discover and perfect new breakthroughs, technologies, and findings that benefit older adults around the world.

USC Research Centers, Institutes and Departments

USC McNair/Research Gateway Scholars Program
The Research Gateway Scholars Program is a student academic services initiative sponsored by the University of Southern California, Office of Undergraduate Programs. Summer research grants of $2,800 and special programs to help prepare for graduate school, for disadvantaged and underrepresented minority students.

USC Undergraduate Research Program
Information on undergraduate research opportunities, academic honors programs, financial support, and a forum for dissemination of student accomplishments.

USC Neuroscience Research
More than 60 Neuroscience faculty conduct externally funded research programs in areas ranging from the
molecules that determine neuronal function to the principles of human cognition and emotion.

**USC Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly & Creative Work**
Using poster/panel sessions, art exhibits, and electronic media, students can exhibit and share their scholarly work with the university community. Monetary prizes awarded in several categories.

**USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies: Catalina Semester**
A 16-week intensive marine science research program for undergraduate juniors and seniors. This program explores the dynamics of marine organisms and ocean microbes, as well as the latest in scientific approaches to oceanic problems.

**FELLOWSHIPS:**
**East Asian Studies Center - Freeman Foundation**
Sponsored Research
FLAS fellowships are provided by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant for undergraduate and graduate study of Mandarin Chinese, Japanese or Korean and East Asian area studies. The purpose of the program is to enrich the nation’s pool of area and international specialists.

**Global Scholars Program**
The Global Scholars program recognizes undergraduates who have excelled in their studies both at home and abroad. Up to ten students will receive a $10,000 prize to be applied toward graduate study. USC recognizes all undergraduates who meet the program’s criteria. Applicants must have participated in an international program administered by USC or an outside institution. Global Scholars will be expected to complete a capstone paper, project, or research paper and a reflective essay in which they reflect on their international experience.

**Renaissance Scholars Program**
USC has created an academic honor that is awarded to select undergraduate students who graduate with a major and a minor (or two majors) in widely separated fields of study. In order to receive the Renaissance Scholar honor, each student must first meet all of the university requirements for his/her degree(s). The combination of disciplines each student is studying will be reviewed by a faculty panel. Certification will be based on the extent to which the two fields of study are widely separate and distinct, and require each student to stretch intellectually.

**The Rose Hills Foundation Summer Science and Engineering Research Fellowship**
The Rose Hills Foundation, which supports non-profit organizations that serve the citizens of Southern California, has generously provided funding for a limited number of students who would like to obtain Science and Engineering Fellowships during the summer. Each undergraduate student funded by the program will receive a stipend in the amount of $5000 to support full-time research in science or engineering for a period of not less than eight weeks during the period May 15 through August 14. All full-time USC faculty engaged in science or engineering research are eligible to serve as faculty supervisors. Faculty supervisors will receive $1000 for each student supervised.

**USC Global Health Fellowships**
In collaboration with partner organizations, the USC Institute for Global Health offers several funded fellowship open to students who apply.

**USC Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship**
The Office of the Provost provides a limited number of fellowships for undergraduate research. Each undergraduate student funded by the program will receive a stipend in the amount of $3000 to support research in any academic field for a period of not less than eight weeks during a period of time. All full-time USC faculty engaged in research are eligible to serve as faculty supervisors.

**USC Roski Eye Institute**
A center for patient care, vision research, and physician education; affiliated with USC’s Keck School of Medicine.

**Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) - College Undergraduate Research Grants**
To introduce undergraduates to the experience of conducting research within the academe while still at an early stage in their academic careers and to assist them in forging mentoring relationships.