

Center for Neurotechnology Research Experience for Undergraduates Program

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated: October 5, 2023)

Question: How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

Answer: Eligibility requirements can be found on the CNT REU website
(<http://centerforneurotech.org/content/research-experience-undergraduates>)

Question: I will graduate from college before or during the REU program, am I still eligible to apply?

Answer: No, graduating seniors are not eligible for the program.

Question: Do I need to have research experience to apply?

Answer: No, you do not need to have research experience.

Question: Do I have to be a rising Junior or Senior to apply?

Answer: No. However, we would like you to have taken basic science and math courses, and therefore we expect most students will have finished their second year by the start of the program.

Question: How do I apply for the REU program?

Answer: The REU application is available on the CNT website
(<http://centerforneurotech.org/content/research-experience-undergraduates>)

Question: I am a student with a disability and need accommodations in order to complete the application. Who should I contact?

Answer: Please contact Dr. Eric Chudler, CNT Executive Director, by email at chudler@uw.edu or by phone at 206-616-6899.

Question: I see that the application requires my school transcripts. Are unofficial transcripts acceptable?

Answer: Yes, unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

Question: At what exact time on the due date will the application be closed?

Answer: All applications must be complete and submitted by 11:59 pm on January 15, 2024. Letters of recommendation must also be received by January 15, 2024, so give your references plenty of time to submit their material.

Question: My letter writer did not send in his/her letter of reference by the deadline, what should I do?

Answer: Letters of reference/recommendation must be received by the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to follow up with their letter writer well in advance of the deadline. It is your responsibility to make sure all of your materials are submitted on time. Do not assume that because someone said they would write a letter for you that it will be done. Applications that are not complete by the deadline will not be reviewed.

Question: How will I know when my application is complete?

Answer: If you would like to know if your application is complete (e.g., both letters of reference submitted), please contact Dr. Eric Chudler by email at chudler@uw.edu.

Question: I am having problems with my application, who should I contact?

Answer: We are sorry to hear that and are happy to help you. If you have a general question or issue, please contact Dr. Chudler by email at chudler@uw.edu.

Please note: If you wait until the last minute to submit your application, we will not have time to assist you before the deadline has passed.

Question: Classes at my school start before the end of the program, can I leave early?

Answer: The research symposium is on the Wednesday of the last week of the program. You may leave on Wednesday night or on Thursday, but not before.

Question: When will I hear whether I have been selected for the REU?

Answer: We expect to make decisions by March 1st.

Question: Who will evaluate my application?

Answer: The education staff at the CNT, faculty members associated with the CNT, and members of participating laboratories will review applications.

Question: What are the selection criteria?

Answer: We will take into account coursework and grades when we look at applications, but we are especially interested in your answers to the essay questions and your letters of reference. Therefore, we suggest that you put some thought and research into your responses, and choose your references wisely.

Question: If I am not selected this year, can I apply again next year?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How will I be assigned to a lab?

Answer: The education staff will try to match students with labs based on their expressed interests, but individual laboratory directors will make the final choice of students accepted into their labs. It may not be possible for all accepted REU students to get their first lab choice.

Question: Who will be my mentor?

Answer: Depending on the lab, you may work primarily with a graduate student, a post-doctoral trainee or a faculty member.

Question: How do I get paid?

Answer: REU students are paid two times during the summer, preferably through an electronic bank deposit.

Question: What kind of housing is provided?

Answer: Students will be housed in on-campus apartments. Every student will have his/her own room and will share the apartment with other students of the same gender. The apartments are furnished and have kitchens and access to laundry facilities. However, cooking and eating utensils, bed linens and towels are not provided.

Question: Is food included?

Answer: A meal plan and a food allowance are not included. REU students are responsible for their own meals.

Question: If I want to live somewhere else and not in UW housing, can I be given a housing allowance?

Answer: No. If you choose not to live in the provided housing you will not be compensated.

Question: Will we have access to the library?

Answer: Yes, you will have access to the UW libraries (online and in-person).

Question: Will I need a car?

Answer: No, you should not need a car, and parking is not provided by the CNT REU program. City buses run frequently in and around campus. Grocery stores, banks, and restaurants are within walking distance of the apartments. Seattle is also very bicycle friendly.

Question: I have read through this entire document and I still have a question. Who should I contact?

Answer: Contact Dr. Chudler by email at chudler@uw.edu.