

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT COLUMBIA



Astronomy & Astrophysics
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer Science
Earth & Environmental Science
Ecology, Evolution & Environmental
Biology
Mathematics
Physics
Psychology
Statistics

Students have the opportunity to participate in research in the many science departments, centers, institutes and affiliated organizations at Columbia University. Science is interdisciplinary and collaborative.

Earth Institute
Center for Environmental Research & Conservation
Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory
Nevis Laboratories
Institute for String, Cosmology & Astroparticle Physics
Nanoscale Science & Engineering Center
Energy Frontier Research Center

American Museum of
Natural History
Bronx Botanical Garden
Kitt Peak Observatory
NASA Goddard Institute for
Space Studies
The Wilderness Society
Wildlife Conservation Society
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Undergraduate can begin research
as early as their first year.
Most research groups welcome
undergraduate researchers.
To do research you need to do some
research!
Check out department websites.

Get Involved!
Departments hold many seminars, colloquia and other
events.
Meet faculty, graduate students, post docs and other
undergraduates.
Meet department majors, ask your peers about their
research experience.

Dr. Vesna Gasperov
Undergraduate Science Research Advisor
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How should I begin?

Identify areas of interest!

Go online and read the information about different departments, centers and institutes.

Read about your Professors and their research projects.

Read some of your Professors recent publications.

Find out more about that area of research – what have you see in science magazines, newspapers and journals?

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How should I begin?

Get to know the faculty

- Take opportunity to meet your professors whenever you can at seminars, office hours, department and university events, etc

Email the professors

- Email is usually the easiest way to contact professors

Undergraduates, Graduates and Postdocs

- Others doing research for the professors can help you with extra information about the lab and the projects

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Writing that Email

Introduce yourself

- The professor will like to know your major and which science classes you have taken, especially those that relate to their research
- If you have met before, be sure to mention it!

Projects

- Which projects interest you?
- Mention which papers you have read and if you have any ideas

Experience

- Do you have any research experience? It's ok if you don't!
- If you have taken any lab courses be sure to mention this, especially if it relates to their research

Follow up

- Don't forget to include days/times that you are available to meet
- Don't worry if you don't get a response right away – send a follow up email in a few days

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Websites to get started

- <http://www.columbia.edu/content/academics.html>
- <http://ps.columbia.edu/about-ps/departments>

People who can help

- Dr. Vesna Gasperov
 - Undergraduate Science Research Advisor
 - vg2231@columbia.edu
- Dr. Jenni Punt
 - Associate Dean for Student Research at CUMC
 - jap2218@columbia.edu
- Directors of Undergraduate Studies in the science departments can provide extra information about faculty in the department