**How do I get started?**

1. **Choose an area of research that interests you:** Cardiology? Thermodynamics? Whatever topic you choose, be sure that you find it interesting so you can get the most out of your research experience.

2. **Find a Faculty Mentor in that area of interest:** You’ll need to find your own mentor. We recommend students do 2 things: 1) visit the Undergraduate Research Portal under the Academics tab on MyUCLA to view open, active research positions; and 2) Browse department websites to find faculty to contact directly. Make a list of at least 10 contacts from both department websites and the portal.

3. **Draft your CV and cover letter:** Visit the URC-Sciences website for sample cover letters and CV’s. We recommend sending the cover letter as the body of an email with your CV as an attachment. Send a follow up email if you don’t hear back within a week. Also utilize the Career Center and Writing Center for help writing a competitive CV.

4. **Earn academic credit and funding for your research:**

   **SRP 99:** Earn 1-2 units of credit of lower division credit and receive a Pass/No Pass grade at the end of the term. Great for entry-level research. Can be done during summer session as well.

   **Departmental 199:** Earn 4-5 units of upper division credit and receive a letter grade. Great for more advanced, independent research. Note: some departments require SRP 99 before 199. Check the requirements first!

   **Scholarships and Programs:** URC-Sciences offers many opportunities for funding that transfer students of all backgrounds may be eligible for. Visit our office or visit our website to learn more!

**Undergraduate Research Portal**

The Undergraduate Research Portal is a platform on MyUCLA where faculty can post and advertise active research opportunities in their labs. This is a valuable resource for finding a lab to join.

Undergraduates also have the ability to create custom profiles for faculty to view. This means a faculty can contact students directly if their qualifications interest them.

The Portal can be accessed on MyUCLA under the “Academics” tab.

Keep in mind the opportunities posted on the Portal are not comprehensive of all opportunities available at UCLA. We recommend you also visit the department websites’ faculty pages to find a faculty mentor you would be interested working with.

**Office Information**

Monday—Friday: 8am—5pm

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621 Charles E. Young Drive South
Los Angeles, CA 90095
310-794-4227
urcsem@lifesci.ucla.edu
http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu

A guide to getting started in research, securing funding, and joining the UCLA research community.
**Travel Grants**
Receive up to $300 as a reimbursement if you are selected to present at a conference. You must apply at least 2 weeks before your conference date. Application is available on the URC-Sciences website. International Students and AB-540 students are eligible.

**Bruin Resource Center’s Undocumented Student Program (USP)**
The BRC’s USP supports undocumented students by providing caring, personalized services and resources that enable students to reach their highest potential. Through a variety of programs, workshops, and partnerships with students, campus allies, and community stakeholders, USP strives to support all members of the UndocuBruin community. The BRC is located in the Student Activities Center Suite B44 and is open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Connect with them by phone at 310-206-2980 or via email at: usp@saonet.ucla.edu.

**SACNAS**
SACNAS at UCLA is a student group dedicated to fostering the success of scientists belonging to underrepresented groups. SACNAS can provide you with an incredible community of aspiring scientists by providing mentors, advice regarding academic and professional development, stress-relieving social events, and leadership-building opportunities. Visit: sacnasatucla.com for more info.