



LEAP

STC: LEARNING THE EARTH WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & PHYSICS (LEAP)

Summer 2022 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How do I apply? And when is the application deadline?

The application form is available online. [Click here to apply](#). Applications are due March 3, 2022, 11:59PM EDT.

When is the deadline for letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation should be submitted via email to erin.morey@columbia.edu. They may be submitted after the March 3 application deadline.

What are the application requirements?

- [Online application form](#)
- Resumé/CV
- Academic transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
- Statement of interest (500 words about your research goals this summer and your future plans)
- Letter of recommendation from an academic professor who you have studied with at your home institution

If selected, when will I be notified about an application decision?

We anticipate notifying applicants with a decision on March 24, 2022.

Is there an application fee?

No, there is no application fee.

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to apply?

We invite applications from undergraduate students who will be a rising sophomore, junior, or senior in Fall 2022 at LEAP partner institutions: Columbia/Barnard, NYU, University of California at Irvine, and University of Minnesota. We also invite current SOARS Protégés. Applicants must be continuing their undergraduate studies in Fall 2022 (i.e., seniors graduating in Spring 2022 are not eligible).

Are international students eligible to apply?

Unfortunately, we are only able to offer admission to US citizens and Permanent Residents.

FUNDING QUESTIONS

How much is the stipend?

The program offers a competitive stipend of \$600 per week for the duration of the program (June 6 – July 29, 2022).

Is my REU stipend taxable?

1099 forms will be issued to students. Please visit the [1099 tax withholding page](#) for more information. You should save documentation of the direct deposit of your stipend.

Will travel be provided?

Students are responsible for traveling to Columbia's campus for the first day of the program.

Will housing be provided? Are housing costs covered?

Students who require summer housing will be housed on Columbia's campus for the duration of the program. Yes, housing costs will be covered by the program. The proximity to campus will allow students to take advantage of Columbia's resources, facilities, and social events during the summer.

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

What are the program dates?

The LEAP Summer REU Program is from Sunday, June 6 to Friday, July 29, 2022. Please note that dates may vary for different projects.

Where will the program be located?

The program, including enrichment and social activities, will be at Columbia's Morningside Heights campus. Some PIs may have additional lab or desk space available to students at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, NY.

Is the program in-person, remote, or hybrid?

LEAP would like to maximize in-person interactions with students, researchers, and faculty. We expect students to be onsite and in-person for the summer.

What does the program offer?

The LEAP Summer REU Program offers summer undergraduate research experiences (SUREs) on synergistic innovations in data science and climate science under the supervision of a LEAP expert. Students will have the opportunity to work on impactful projects at the intersection of geoscience and data science, and to participate in a wide array of enrichment learning and networking opportunities, plus training in data science. LEAP also offers collaborative partnerships with the Summer at SEAS program, the DSI Scholars program, and the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program at University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR).

Are there activities, workshops, and other events planned for the summer?

Yes! LEAP will support summer researchers in their professional development goals. The summer program will include various workshops on graduate school planning, professional development skills, research seminars, social events, and more. LEAP will also provide additional learning and enrichment opportunities in the summer.

I have another summer commitment (e.g., research position or employment), can I still participate in the LEAP Summer REU Program?

This program will be a full-time commitment that requires students to participate in research, seminars, and workshops. We strongly recommend students keep other weekly commitments to a minimum (less than 15 hours per week).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

I have no programming or coding experience. Can I still apply?

We prefer students to have prior experience with coding. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply, no matter their coding and programming experience. We may provide guidance on how admitted students can prepare for the research experiences through self-guided learning materials before the REU program.

I'm interested in two research projects. Can I work on two projects this summer? Should I submit two applications?

We recommend summer researchers focus on one research project during the summer and submit one application only. The summer experience is *vertically-integrated*, with ample opportunities to learn from multiple LEAP faculty, mentors, and other researchers.

If selected, can I continue my research in the future beyond summer?

Yes. Students wishing to continue their summer research projects may discuss with their research mentor(s) continuing their research during the academic year, based on feasibility and approval from the student's academic advisor.

Should I contact LEAP faculty members about available research projects for the summer?

No. Please contact our team (leap@columbia.edu) with any questions related to summer research projects or the REU program in general.

When do I find out about what project I will be working on?

We anticipate matching admitted students with projects by March 31, 2022.