

Summer Research EXperience For High School Students and Community College Students

Program Description

What is REX?

The summer Research EXperience (REX) is a six week program offered for High School and Community College students. We aim to provide an introductory STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research experience to students who have no formal research training beyond high school courses. This program is especially useful for students who are considering enrolling as a STEM major in college or who are taking introductory college courses (first/second year) in a STEM major.

Here is how being part of REX will benefit you!

- **A rewarding experience:** This is a great program for all students interested in STEM careers and it will increase your chances of getting accepted to future research programs.
- **Stipend:** \$1200
- **Program Activities:** Students will gain experience working in a research laboratory and increase their research skills through workshops on scientific writing, ethics, lab safety, and making scientific posters.
- **Networking:** Students will meet like-minded individuals that are on the same career path and will be mentored by university faculty and graduate students.
- **Higher Education:** Programs such as this one may increase your chances at receiving STEM scholarships.

When is the program held?

The 2017 program is six weeks long and will be held from **June 26 to August 4** at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas main campus.

What are the program requirements?

You are expected to:

- Work 30 hours each week on research. Any time off must be approved by the REX Coordinator and your supervising faculty member.
- Attend weekly workshops and trainings. For the most part, these will take place during your regular 30 work hours.
- Complete your poster and report by the end of the program. This may require time outside of your regular work hours.

Who is eligible for REX?

Any high school or community college students who meet the following criteria:

- Students must have their own means of transportation (e.g. personal car, public transportation, reliable pick-up/drop-off assistance)
- Students must be at least 18 years old by June 26, 2017
- Students are recommended to have a GPA of 3.0 or above. Applicants with a lower GPA may be accepted with a strong statement of interest and letter(s) of recommendation.

Please note that housing is not part of this program. If you live outside of Las Vegas and wish to participate in the program, housing is at your own cost.

How do I apply?

Visit the REX website (<http://solarnexus.epscorspo.nevada.edu/rex/> or scan the QR code below) to print an application. Mail the required materials (application, statement of interest, unofficial transcript from current school, letter of recommendation) postmarked by **April 1** to:

Summer REX
c/o Tasha Ramos
Box 454027
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-4027



At a minimum, please address the following in your 150-500 word statement of interest: why you wish to participate in the summer research experience, what you hope to gain from the program, and why you should be selected.

Research Areas

Faculty in the following disciplines have openings for students: **Anthropology** (diet of hunters and gatherers in East Africa, evolution of cooperative breeding, labor and delivery around the world), **Biochemistry** (microbiology & biosafety), **Civil Engineering** (water resources/climate change), **Computer Science** (systems research and infrastructure), **Electrical and Computer Engineering** (computer vision, e.g. driver assistance systems), **Environmental Engineering** (chromium bioremediation), **Entertainment Engineering** (creating an augmented reality experience, STEAM Robotics), **Geoscience** (health aspects of naturally-occurring asbestos), **Life Science** (characterization of microorganisms in hot and cold springs, metagenomic analysis of microbial communities), **Mechanical Engineering** (solar photovoltaics, materials for water treatment, materials for solar thermal energy), **Sociology** (medical/reproductive sociology).

Note: Students may indicate a preference for a particular research area in their application (statement of interest), but there are no guarantees that you will be placed with a faculty member in that discipline. See website for expanded project descriptions.

Questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact the **REX Coordinator Dr. Erica Marti** via email at erica.marti@unlv.edu (preferred) or by phone 702-895-2693 (only available Fri/Sat).

FAQs

Are any of the supervising faculty members in the medical field?

There are no medical practitioners involved in the program. The National Science Foundation does not fund clinical medicine research; however, many areas of biological and chemical research have direct applications to the medical field, such as research on preventing bacterial diseases, inhibiting anthrax spores, developing drugs for cancer therapy, combating HIV, understanding genes that affect obesity, and understanding cancer cell division.

If I will be gone on vacation during one of the six weeks, can I work a week before or after the scheduled program?

No. Because there are many group activities and a concluding poster session, all participants must stick to the scheduled program.

Are there other financial benefits in addition to the stipend?

No, students will only receive the stipend. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from UNLV. No meals will be provided. The program will cover costs related to research supplies and poster printing.

Please visit the REX website for more Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)