REU Programs

The basic setup

- Typical programs include about $5000 stipend, room & board, and travel allowance
- 10-15 students for 10 weeks, usually at research universities but occasionally smaller schools or industrial sites
- Research project, field trips, career & GRE prep, mini-courses (machining, ethics, etc.)
- Final oral and/or written presentation

REU Programs

Astronomical Sciences
Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Cyberinfrastructure
Department of Defense
Earth Sciences
Education and Human Resources
Engineering
Ethics and Values Studies
International Science and Engineering
Materials Research
Mathematical Sciences
Ocean Sciences
Physics
Polar Programs
Small Business Innovation Research
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

REU Programs

Applying

- NSF list to find programs: http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp or google “nsf reu”
- Apply in January/early February, to 5-10 places
- Typically 60-600 applications for 10-15 slots; mid-country and more focused sites easier
- Need transcript, statement, two letters of recommendation

Other internships

- National labs (Fermilab, Los Alamos, NIST). Often formal application procedure, analogous to REU programs.
- Companies (IBM, Hitachi, Xerox)---sometimes advertised as REU, perhaps through partnership with a university. For many internships an inside connection is key.

Letters of Recommendation

- If you've done research, get a letter!
- Research letters give **FAR** more information than coursework letters! Your research advisor almost always knows you better than an instructor for a course, and your performance in a research setting is also more relevant.
- Get letters from professors, NOT graduate students. Professors have seen hundreds of examples and know how to write a convincing letter.

Statement of Purpose

- Show that you've given thought to your past experiences.
- Show that you have a clear goal on what to get out of your REU experience.
- What have you particularly enjoyed about your classes and/or previous research? Do you want to explore a new area or follow up more deeply on something you've studied? Do you hope to use your summer experience to decide on post-college plans? (There are no right or wrong answers!)

Special Application Considerations

- Why do you want to do an REU at another school, instead of doing summer research at Davis?
- If you haven't previously been involved in research, why not? The longer you have been at Davis, the more of a question this is.
- THERE ARE CONVINCING ANSWERS!