

UCLA

Undergraduate Education

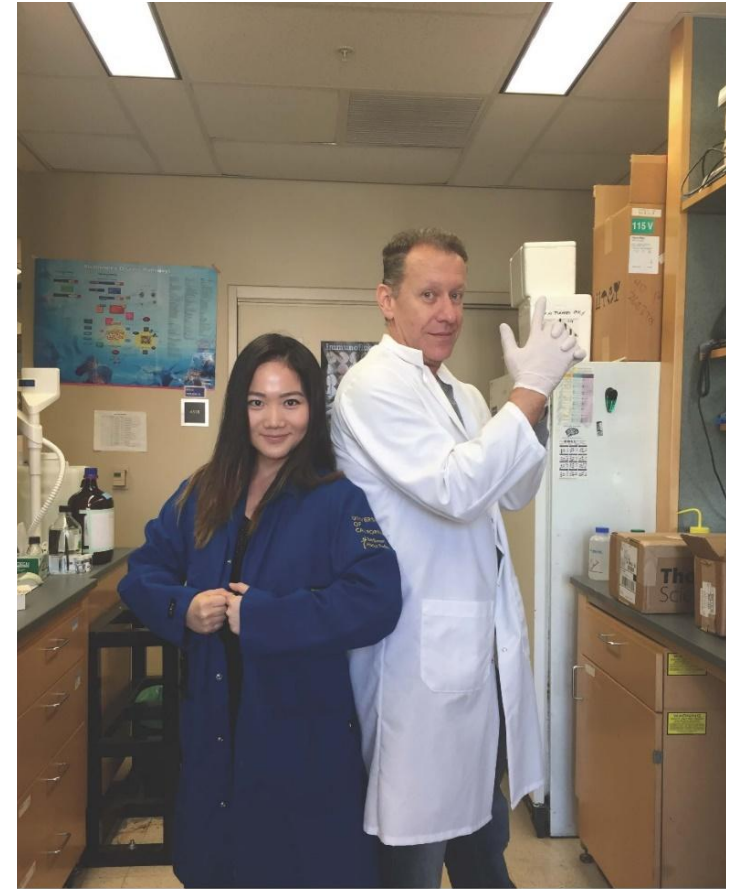
Research Centers – Sciences

Getting into Research

For Life Science, Physical Science, & Engineering Research Disciplines

Undergraduate Research at UCLA

- Research in the sciences is usually done in a lab led by a principal investigator, or PI
 - PI = the faculty that runs a research project
 - Projects usually address a hypothesis, or scientific question
- Entry-level projects are usually smaller parts of a larger, ongoing project
- New students are usually supervised by a post-doctoral scholar or graduate student



Outcomes of undergraduate research

- Contribute to the body of knowledge in your field
 - Gain important skills and get hands-on experience outside of the classroom
 - Enhance competitiveness for admission to graduate and professional schools, high-level employment
 - Build meaningful relationships and receive mentorship from experts in your field
 - Complete degree requirements, qualify for competitive scholarships & fellowships
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When should I plan to start?

- 1st year admits in the summer or fall after your first year
 - Complete lower division courses and explore potential areas of interest
 - Adjust to the quarter system and build time-management skills
 - Look for research opportunities in the spring or summer
 - Transfer students in the winter after your first quarter
 - Adjust to the quarter system
 - Look for research opportunities in the summer or fall
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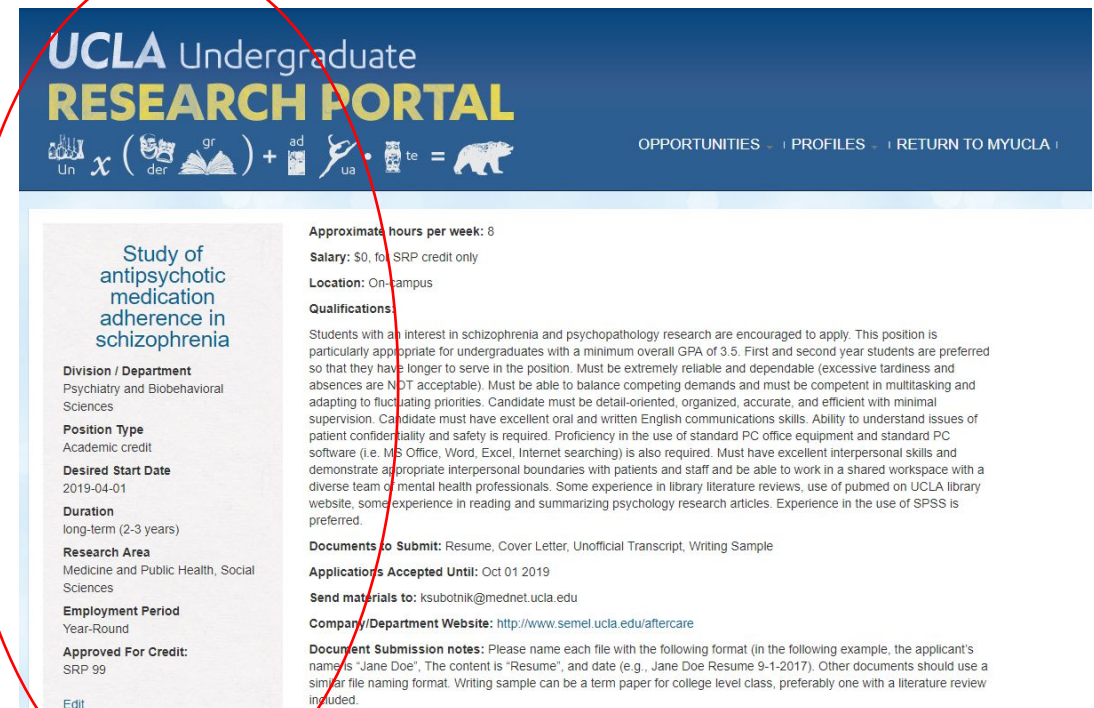
How do I find faculty to work with?

- We recommend two options:
 1. Undergraduate Research Portal
 2. Contact faculty directly
- Note: some programs & internships may place you into a project with a faculty
 - Example: Biomedical Research Minor



Option 1: Undergraduate Research Portal

- MyUCLA Academics tab
- Browse active research opportunities
- Listings outline information about the project, who to contact, and what to submit
- Follow instructions on how to apply
- Remember: listings are not comprehensive!



The screenshot displays the UCLA Undergraduate Research Portal interface. The header features the text "UCLA Undergraduate RESEARCH PORTAL" in white and yellow on a dark blue background. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "OPPORTUNITIES", "PROFILES", and "RETURN TO MYUCLA". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a job listing for a "Study of antipsychotic medication adherence in schizophrenia". The right column contains detailed information about the position, including approximate hours per week, salary, location, qualifications, and application instructions. A red circle highlights the job listing and its details.

UCLA Undergraduate RESEARCH PORTAL

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OPPORTUNITIES | PROFILES | RETURN TO MYUCLA

Study of antipsychotic medication adherence in schizophrenia

Division / Department
Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences

Position Type
Academic credit

Desired Start Date
2019-04-01

Duration
long-term (2-3 years)

Research Area
Medicine and Public Health, Social Sciences

Employment Period
Year-Round

Approved For Credit:
SRP 99

[Edit](#)

Approximate hours per week: 8

Salary: \$0, for SRP credit only

Location: On-campus

Qualifications:
Students with an interest in schizophrenia and psychopathology research are encouraged to apply. This position is particularly appropriate for undergraduates with a minimum overall GPA of 3.5. First and second year students are preferred so that they have longer to serve in the position. Must be extremely reliable and dependable (excessive tardiness and absences are NOT acceptable). Must be able to balance competing demands and must be competent in multitasking and adapting to fluctuating priorities. Candidate must be detail-oriented, organized, accurate, and efficient with minimal supervision. Candidate must have excellent oral and written English communications skills. Ability to understand issues of patient confidentiality and safety is required. Proficiency in the use of standard PC office equipment and standard PC software (i.e. MS Office, Word, Excel, Internet searching) is also required. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrate appropriate interpersonal boundaries with patients and staff and be able to work in a shared workspace with a diverse team of mental health professionals. Some experience in library literature reviews, use of pubmed on UCLA library website, some experience in reading and summarizing psychology research articles. Experience in the use of SPSS is preferred.

Documents to Submit: Resume, Cover Letter, Unofficial Transcript, Writing Sample

Applications Accepted Until: Oct 01 2019

Send materials to: ksubotnik@mednet.ucla.edu

Company/Department Website: <http://www.semel.ucla.edu/aftercare>

Document Submission notes: Please name each file with the following format (in the following example, the applicant's name is "Jane Doe". The content is "Resume", and date (e.g., Jane Doe Resume 9-1-2017). Other documents should use a similar file naming format. Writing sample can be a term paper for college level class, preferably one with a literature review included.

Option 2: Contact Faculty Directly

1. Visit Department Websites, start with the:
 - College of Letters and Science
 - Division of Life Sciences
 - Division of Physical Sciences
 - David Geffen School of Medicine
 2. Browse faculty directories
 3. Record contact information of faculty you want to work with
-

Option 2: Contact Faculty Directly

- Identify 5-10 faculty you want to work with
 - This process can be similar to applying for a job
 - The more faculty you plan to contact, the better your chances will be
- Record their email addresses
- Prepare a cover letter and CV
- Email them!
- **Do not show up to labs or offices unannounced**



Need help with your CV and cover letter?

- Resources to assist you with your written materials:
 - [Career Center](#)
 - [Writing Center](#)



Questions to ask when interviewing with a lab

- Who will be supervising & training me?
 - How is the project structured?
 - What techniques and equipment will I be using?
 - What safety training(s) do I need to complete?
 - What time commitment is expected?
 - How many people are currently working in your lab?
 - **Are hours flexible during exam season? (Remember, you are a student first!)**
 - What literature can I read in preparation?
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Finding a Research Opportunity: Recap

1. Undergraduate Research Portal
 2. Contact Faculty Directly
 1. Browse department websites
 2. Record faculty contact information
 3. Prepare a cover letter and CV
 4. Email faculty
- Aim for at least 5-10 faculty to contact or opportunities to apply for
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What can I do after I begin research?

- Conducting research opens the door for many opportunities
- Earn course credit
- Apply for research programs, fellowships, and scholarships
- Present your work at a conference
- Join a student organization/club



Research with UCLA Health Sciences

- **All students working with a UCLA Health Sciences Faculty must receive clearance through the UCLA Health Sciences Volunteer Program prior to beginning research activities**
 - Clearance process takes 1-2 weeks
 - The sponsoring faculty will initiate the process by submitting onboarding items to the Health Sciences Volunteer Office
 - Visit the [UCLA Health Sciences Volunteer Programs](#) website for more information
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David Geffen
School of Medicine

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- Receive information on upcoming scholarships, programs, events, and resources





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