STANFORD EARTH SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM (SESUR)

Sara Cina - saracina@stanford.edu
Undergraduate Program Director
School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences
Are you eager to investigate a question or solve a problem related to the Earth, energy, or our environment?

Do you want to explore an idea or an issue that interested you in a class?

Would you like to work with a faculty member and graduate student to learn about the world of research in the Earth and environmental sciences?
Why do research as an undergraduate?

- Develop relationships with faculty and graduate students
- A way to learn and create knowledge
- Address your own curiosity about a topic, or help address a societal need
- Learn resilience, creativity, and problem-solving skills
- Explore a potential career direction
- Learn how to effectively communicate about your work
What is research like?

- Collaborative
- Alternately frustrating and exciting
- Often open-ended
- Requires development of technical expertise and immersion in background literature; may require field work
- Fun, interesting, and rewarding!
**SESUR Timeline**

- **Winter Quarter**: Write proposal
- **Spring Quarter**: Prepare for research, Enroll in Earth 100
- **Summer**: Work on research, Participate in summer program, Jun 20 – Aug 26
- **Fall Quarter**: Present research

- Feb 26 application deadline
- Selection decisions announced
How do I apply?

Your application is a written proposal including the following elements:

A description of the proposed project:
- What question are you asking?
- Why is a significant or important question?
- How will you address it (experimental design, if applicable)?
- What methods will you use?
- What are your research objectives?

A tentative work plan:
- What are you going to do and when? (Week by week bullet points are good)

A tentative budget:
- up to $6400 for your stipend
- up to $500 for additional research expenses

View examples of successful proposals and submit your own application on the program website!
Expectations for SESUR fellows

- Commit to 40 hours/week for 10 weeks of project. Think of it as a full-time job.
- Take Earth 100 during Spring Quarter (1 unit, C/NC)
- Participate in summer seminar if on campus.
- Research blogging
- Proactive communication with your research advisor.
- Poster presentation at SURPS; oral presentation at Stanford Earth undergraduate research symposium.
To recap…

December/January – Project descriptions posted.

Winter Quarter – Proposal prep w/advisor – should be collaborative.

February 26 – Proposal submission; research fellows selected.

Spring Quarter – Research preparation (enroll in Earth 100).

Summer – Work on research; participate in seminar & field trips.

Fall – Presentation at SURPS & Stanford Earth symposium.

Beyond . . . Present at scientific meetings, publish in journals, present develop honors theses, achieve fame and glory (?)

Summer research fellows receive a stipend of up to $6400 and up to $500 for research-related materials.
Questions??

THANKS FOR COMING!

Email: saracina@stanford.edu
Office: Geocorner 112 (right over there)