2023-2024 Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program
OUTLINE

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VUSRP provides Vanderbilt undergraduate students with the opportunity to engage in **10 weeks of full-time, side-by-side research** with any Vanderbilt faculty member.
Location

Students must submit on time a complete application for on-campus, side-by-side research with a Vanderbilt faculty adviser.

Students who are awarded VUSRP cannot enroll in summer session courses with dates that overlap with the VUSRP dates.

The project can be a continuation of research or can continue into the fall semester.
Attend VUSRP enrichment programs and workshops throughout the summer.

Components & Timing

Ten weeks of full-time research (Monday, June 3 - Friday, August 9, 2024) with a Vanderbilt faculty mentor.

Attend VUSRP enrichment programs and workshops throughout the summer.

Participate in a roundtable discussion toward the end of the ten weeks.
Present at the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Fair in fall or spring of AY 24-25.
Eligibility

Enrolled in a Vanderbilt undergraduate degree program at the time of application.

Able to engage in ten weeks of full-time, side-by-side research during the summer with a Vanderbilt faculty mentor.

Be a rising junior or senior.

Applications from rising sophomores are considered.

Full consideration for those with at least a 3.2 GPA.
Benefits

• Faculty mentor
• Research experience
• Presentation experience
• Cohort of VUSRP student researchers
• Eligibility for reduced summer housing for qualified students
• $5000 stipend
  • Limited number of $6000 Littlejohn or Goldberg Fellows awards
Ask your VUSRP faculty mentor to also be your faculty adviser for Immersion Vanderbilt.

Make an advising appointment with the Office of Experiential Learning and Immersion Vanderbilt.

Visit the Brightspace page or portal for more information.

VUSRP can satisfy your Immersion Vanderbilt experiential requirement.

If awarded, then you will declare VUSRP as an immersive experience.

Immersion Vanderbilt
Application Details

Submitted through the InfoReady Review Portal by 12:00 p.m. CST (noon) on 01/31/2024.

Must be endorsed by your faculty mentor. A single faculty member may sponsor up to two applications.

Written for a general audience as review committee members will represent a variety of disciplines.

No late submissions will be accepted.
Writing Workshop

Open to all potential applicants

Goals are to demystify the application writing process, to provide examples of past successful applications, and to provide an opportunity to engage in peer review

Reasons to Attend:
• Hear from faculty reviewers about best practices
• Review successful application samples
• Learn techniques to improve your own application for VUSRP
Application Review

• The strength of justification provided for the work; how well the proposed research question/hypothesis is placed within the context of prior knowledge.

• Whether there is sufficient explanation of the research design/methods; whether the approach is sufficient to address the question/hypothesis; whether the timeframe (10 weeks) is appropriate.

• The appropriateness of the plan to support student progress and to provide timely and useful feedback; the alignment of goals articulated by the student and the mentor.

• Whether the mentor provides strong support for applicant based on previous work experience, class performance, or other interactions; sees potential for applicant to leverage this experience for growth.

• Clarity of writing for reviewer and contribution to student’s stated personal goals.
Common FAQs

- Can I use my VUSRP experience to satisfy Immersion Vanderbilt requirements?
  - Yes!

- May a School of Medicine faculty member be a VUSRP faculty adviser?
  - Yes! Any VU full-time faculty can mentor.

- How do I find a faculty mentor?
  - Websites, VURF programs, SIM Match, Explorations in Research, etc.

- May I enroll in summer school if I am in VUSRP?
  - Course enrollment is not permitted during the ten-week session.

- May I propose research that I am already working on with my mentor?
  - Yes! Research that is part of prior or ongoing research is allowed.
Common FAQs

• Am I restricted to research within my major/area of study?
  • Not at all; research in any discipline is always encouraged.
• Is VUSRP only for natural, basic, and life sciences research?
  • All researchers from any discipline are encouraged to apply!
• I need to adjust my research dates; is that allowed?
  • Research falling outside of the ten-week session is permitted with your faculty mentor’s approval. Deviations of more than one week must be submitted in advance to EL&IV.
Application Deadline

- Complete applications must be submitted through the InfoReady Portal by 12:00 p.m. CST (noon), January 31, 2024
- Students are strongly encouraged to apply by January 17 to give faculty mentors time to submit their portion prior to the deadline on January 31.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- Communicate with your faculty mentor in advance to agree upon a timeline for submitting your application.

https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/
Key Dates & Resources

Applications Due:
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 12 p.m. Central (noon)

Notifications:
Awards announced in March via Vanderbilt email

Resources:
vanderbilt.edu/immersion/vusrp
https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/
Experiential.learning@Vanderbilt.edu
QUESTIONS

vanderbilt.edu/immersion/vusrp