

Open Position: **Summer 2020 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)**

The Tate Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University has an open position for an undergraduate student to conduct full-time research over the summer. Research in our lab focuses on the evolution of immune systems, and investigates interactions between hosts and microbes (symbionts, pathogens, parasites). Most of our experiments use an insect system (flour beetles and their natural parasites), and we complement experiments with mathematical modeling to study these topics. You can learn more about our research and our group on our webpage: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/tatelab/>

The REU student will pursue their own project under the mentorship of Dr. Tate and one or more lab members, and have the opportunity to learn and apply multiple skills, including molecular biology (nucleic acid extraction, RT-qPCR), microbiology, mathematical modeling, and/or organismal biology, toward answering their research question. The student will be expected to participate in the planning of their experiment, attend weekly lab meetings, read papers from the primary literature pertaining to their research topic, and present their results to the lab or undergraduate research symposium at the end of the summer.

The student is expected to work 35-40 hours per week for 10 weeks, and will receive a stipend of \$5000 for living expenses. The start date is flexible within late May to early June.

Requirements

1. Successful completion of Introductory Biology and associated lab course. Preference may be given to students who have taken one or more upper level courses (e.g. Genetics, Evolution, Ecology, Immunology) but these are not required.
2. Intent to major in Biology or other science-related discipline.
3. Must be planning on continuing undergraduate education in the fall (e.g. rising Juniors and Seniors). Students who are planning to graduate before the end of the summer program are not eligible.

How to Apply

Please send the following items to Dr. Tate via email (a.tate@vanderbilt.edu) by **March 23rd**. Please make sure that you include "REU" in the header of your email and that your documents are titled with your last name (e.g. Doe_CV.docx).

1. Curriculum Vitae that includes your education and contact information, relevant coursework, and any previous work and research experience. Please include the names and contact information for 2-3 academic references (e.g. professors or research advisers) at the end of the document.
2. A brief statement (1-2 paragraphs) about why you would like to participate in this research opportunity, and what qualities you have that would help you succeed.