

## Join Us!

The Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC) Research Experiences for Undergraduates provides students with basic training in lab fundamentals, exposes them to core concepts of synthetic biology, and engages them in mentored research in the collaborative environments of individual faculty labs at UC Berkeley, MIT and Harvard. The ten-week program begins on June 1 and ends on August 7. Preference is given to students from primarily undergraduate institutions, and those from diverse groups traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering programs. Prior research experience is not required.

The program is open to sophomores, juniors and non-graduating seniors who are planning to return to undergraduate studies in the fall semester. Students must commit to full time research over the 10-week period, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher (on a scale of 4.0), and be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. Students must be US citizens or permanent residents.

## How to apply

- **Application materials are online at [www.synberc.org/synbio\\_REU](http://www.synberc.org/synbio_REU)**
- Applications may be submitted by mail or email. All materials must be *received* by 2/15.
- Submit completed application and essay questions.
- Submit three letters of recommendation
- Submit a college transcript & resume

## Benefits

Students are provided with a \$350 weekly stipend, travel allowance, housing, and direct research experience at a major research university.

## Program contact

Kate Spohr, SynBERC Education Program,  
kspohr@berkeley.edu, 510-666-3323.

# SYNBERC RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES IN SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

JUNE 1 TO  
AUGUST 7,  
2010

APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 15, 2010



SynBERC  
 Summer Research  
 Program in Synthetic Biology

Application Form

Please Type or Print Clearly • All information requested is required

Deadline: February 15, 2010\*

\*All application materials must be received by 2/15/10

1

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

2

Date of Birth:

MM / DD / YYYY

Gender:  Female  Male

I am a US citizen or permanent resident: Yes No

Race/Ethnicity:  African American or Black  Chicano(a) or Mexican American  
 Caucasian  Native American  Puerto Rican  Other:  
If other please specify

3

Current Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip code

Telephone:

Email:

4

Permanent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip code

Telephone:

Mobile Phone:

5

College or University:

Grade Point Average: on  4.0  5.0 scale

Indicate GPA and check appropriate grade scale

6

Major:

Major 2:

Classification:  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

If applying as a Senior you cannot graduate before December 2010

7

Honors Program:

AMP  MBRS  Other  
 MARC  McNair  N/A

If other please specify

Anticipated Graduation Date:

(MM / YYYY)

8

Name of Faculty Advisor:

Title:

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip code

Telephone:

Email:

9

Have you applied to this program before? Yes No If so, what year?

10

Have you participated in this program before? Yes No If so, what year?

11

References

(At least two need to be from faculty members. If you have research experience, please include a recommendation from your research supervisor.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Position School/Company Title Telephone Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Position School/Company Title Telephone Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Position School/Company Title Telephone Email

12

Refer to <http://bit.ly/SynBERCMembers> for a list of our Research Members. Please identify three Research Members with whom you would like to work. There is no guarantee that, if accepted, you will work with these members.

Research area	Lab	Faculty member
Research area	Lab	Faculty member
Research area	Lab	Faculty member

Please respond to the following in a separate document or paper

13

Describe one prior research experience. If no prior experience, please indicate. (Maximum of 500 words.)

14

Discuss your long term research goals. (Maximum of 500 words.)

15

Please describe your reasons for wishing to undertake graduate study at the doctoral level and your career objectives. In addition, please identify the contributions that you wish to make to your chosen field of study as well as to your community. This statement gives the reviewers a greater understanding of your academic, personal and professional qualifications to participate in this program. (Maximum of 500 words.)

16

Often, we begin to understand our own opinions only after they have been contested by other people. Describe a disagreement you have had. What, on the surface, did it appear to be about? What do you feel it was really about? How did you handle the situation and what was the outcome of the disagreement? What did you learn from it? (Maximum of 500 words.)

17

We are committed to building an academically superb and widely diverse educational community. Describe an experience you have had where cultural diversity (or lack thereof) has made a difference for you. Be sure to mention a specific example or anecdote. (Maximum of 500 words.)

18

If you have performed less than satisfactorily in any of your classes please explain the circumstances. (Maximum of 500 words.)

All application materials & recommendations must be received in our office no later than February 15, 2010.

Mail to: Kate Spohr, SynBERC/UC Berkeley, 206 Stanley Hall #3220, Berkeley, CA 94720-3220; OR email to: [kspohr@berkeley.edu](mailto:kspohr@berkeley.edu).

Checklist--I have included the following by either email or mailed packet:

- Application form
- Responses to items 13-18 (on separate paper)
- Transcript (unofficial transcript is acceptable)
- Resume

Your application will not be considered complete until all above items, plus references, are received. Materials may be emailed or mailed. If you send by email, please attach each item as a separate document labeled in the following manner: "lastname\_application," "lastname\_responses," "lastname\_transcript," etc.

- References 1-3 (at least from 2 faculty). Faculty should email or mail recommendations. They must be received by Feb 15, 2010.  
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Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## FACULTY/RESEARCHER EVALUATION FORM

### TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### TO BE COMPLETED BY EVALUATOR

An application for admission to the SynBERC REU requires evaluations from two faculty/researchers who are capable of judging the professional and academic promise of the applicant

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this applicant compare with his or her peer group in academic ability?

Truly exceptional    Outstanding    Well above average    Above average    Average    Below average    Inadequate opportunity

How does this applicant compare with his or her peer group in the ability to work with others?

Truly exceptional    Outstanding    Well above average    Above average    Average    Below average    Inadequate opportunity to observe

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EVALUATION OF THE APPLICANT

Please provide a written evaluation of the applicant. It will be helpful if you can include your thoughts about any or all of the following points: What particularly qualifies this student to participate in the SynBERC Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in synthetic biology; Information about accomplishments in research or independent projects; Characteristics the student displays related to his or her academic/personal goals and activities. Comparison of this student to other students you may know of that have participated in the program. (You may attach your comments on letterhead.)

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