Information for Teaching Assistants

The Office for Undergraduate Research (OUR) knows that you can play a crucial role in helping undergraduates to engage in the University's research mission. In addition to serving as a mentor for an undergraduate project you can also encourage undergraduates to explore their options for original work and help to connect undergraduates to faculty whom they might not otherwise know.

Graduate Research Consultant Program

OUR encourages and supports instructors who want to transform course projects or assignments into research projects. So that faculty can develop, guide, and evaluate the research component, we compensate advanced graduate students and postdocs (Graduate Research Consultants or GRCs) to work with the instructor and the students during the concentrated period of the course when the students are planning, carrying out and communicating their research. GRCs are expected to work 30 hours over the course of the semester and are paid $750.

www.unc.edu/depts/our/grads_post/grads_grc.html

Mentoring Undergraduates

To encourage graduate mentoring of undergraduate research projects, OUR offers compensation to the graduate student (up to $500/semester, $1000/summer, maximum $1000/graduate student). Applications are considered three times/year. Postdoctoral fellows who are mentoring undergraduates are encouraged to apply for the Postdoctoral Scholar Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduates.

www.unc.edu/depts/our/grads_post/grads_mentor.html

Undergraduate Assistance with Your Research

Both graduate students and postdocs are encouraged to post undergraduate research opportunities in the Database of Research Opportunities, and list themselves as the research supervisor (with approval from the faculty advisor).

www.unc.edu/depts/our/for_grads_postdocs.html

For Your Undergraduates

Information on the following programs and more is available at:

www.unc.edu/depts/our/for_students.html

- Carolina Research Scholar Program (CRSP): Students who successfully meet the 3 CRSP criteria will be recognized for their contribution with the Carolina Research Scholar designation on their transcript.
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURFs): OUR annually gives over 60 summer fellowships of $3000 for undergraduates to pursue independent research projects.
- Research Support and Travel Funding: OUR gives monthly awards of up to $750 to undergraduates who need funds to complete their research or to travel to a professional conference to present their research.