Getting Started in Research with URAP Apprenticeships
What is URAP?

• Helps to connect students and faculty with open projects
• Research experiences spanning a wide range of fields
• More structured experience
  – Listing of currently open projects
  – Formal application/interview process
  – Contract for work expected, what kind of learning experience, etc.
  – Get units for doing research
Navigating the Project Listing

- [http://urap.berkeley.edu/](http://urap.berkeley.edu/)
- Make sure to also look through listings that may be outside of your major, interdisciplinary, or associated with other institutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Molecular and Cell Biology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Helen Bateup, Professor Molecular and Cell Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Anatomical and functional impact of mTOR deletion from midbrain dopamine neurons (Current Term Now Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abby Dernburg, Professor Molecular and Cell Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Exploring the diversity of meiotic mechanisms. (Full- no new appr needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Richard Harland, Professor Molecular and Cell Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Genetic Analysis of the neural development of Xenopus laevis (Current Term Now Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Function of RNA-binding proteins and alternative splicing during frog development. (Full- no new appr needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Regulation of Wnt-signaling by proton pumps during vertebrate development and human cancer (Full- no new appr needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Exploring how tissue mechanics and multicellular dynamics shape tissues during organ formation (Full- no new appr needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rebecca Heald, Professor Molecular and Cell Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Molecular and Cell Biology Diversity Journalist (Current Term Now Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Making microfluidic devices to study mitotic spindle size control (Current Term Now Closed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Application Requirements**

- Read interesting listings for requirements specific to the project/position
  - Level of prior experience and skills (ie programming or lab techniques), major, and coursework completed
  - Consider time commitment!
- Minimum GPA requirement of 2.8
Application Timeline

• Unfortunately, projects for Fall 2023 semester are closed.
  – Check the website for updates on Spring 2024 projects!

• **Applications are due on Monday of the second week of classes each term.**
  – If deadline has passed, look through extended deadline projects (these are typically easier to get into as well!)
Application Materials

• Statement of Interest for each mentor you are applying to
  – Maximum of 3 faculty members
• Grades for relevant college-level coursework
• Hard copy of unofficial transcript/academic summary (in My Academics) could be required
Preparing the Application

- Do your own research on projects that interest you
  - Lab websites, current projects in the lab
  - Recent publications

- Make sure your statement of interest addresses the specific lab and project
  - What are your research interests? What you want to get out of your research experience? Are there opportunities to extend the project? What skills can you contribute?
Tips and Advice

• Maximize your applications
  – Start early and have your 3 applications ready by the deadline
  – During the first couple weeks of school, continue to check the website for new projects/extended deadlines and apply to ones that interest you as you are notified of any rejections from your 3 applications

• Tell a story with your statement
  – Don’t just list your resume in essay format, bring your experiences to life!
Alternate Research Opportunities

- SURF L&S
- SURF Rose Hill
- HAAS Scholars
- OURS research newsletter
Resources

• URAP-specific workshops
• OURS Peer Advisors:
  – Rachel Chen: rachel_chen@berkeley.edu
  – Mauricio Chandler: 25chandler mauricio@berkeley.edu
• Program Manager/Advisor: Stefanie Ebeling, urap@berkeley.edu