Research Requirement FAQ

As Plant Biology major you are encouraged and required to engage in research as an important part of your training. There are many opportunities to do research in the various areas of plant biology, ranging from computational biology to wet-lab research and field studies. It is your responsibility to seek out opportunities that you are interested in. Your BASC advisors Joyce Fernandez and Sophy Ney will also go into more detail about the PLB research requirement later in your first year during an advising appointment.

**How to find a research internship:**

There are many labs on campus that focus on research related to plant biology. We recommend that you look at the websites and social media platforms of labs in the departments of Plant Biology, Plants Sciences, Plant Pathology and Evolution and Ecology to find labs that meet your interests. Philipp Zerbe (pzerbe@ucdavis.edu), the Master Advisor to the Plant Biology major is also available to help identify labs in the area of your interest.

**How to contact faculty:**

To secure a research internship, it is up to you to connect with faculty to inquire if they have space for an undergrad in the lab. We recommend that you contact the faculty by writing a short email (no more than 1-2 brief paragraphs). Briefly say who you are, why you are interest in this particular lab, and ask if the faculty may have availability for an undergraduate student. You may attach an up-to-date CV but it is not essential. Avoid writing a generic email to several faculty, rather highlight your specific interest in joining a lab. Don’t be discouraged if you do not get an immediate response, since faculty have many demands on their time. If you have not received a response within 1-2 weeks, it is ok to send a reminder email. Once you find a position, you can then register for credit units through a PLB/PLS199 or PLB/PLS192 courses.