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[Guidelines for REU Principal Investigators & Mentors](#)

Thank you for volunteering to be a PI or mentor for the NSMS REU program during the coming summer. We have developed the following guidelines to help our REU students get the most from their summer experience, and to make this a rewarding experience for you by helping you in your research.

The REU program will run from **May 30th - August 4th, 2017**. We have planned numerous academic and social events, for which we invite and look forward to your participation. While the social events are voluntary, but encouraged, it is essential that you attend the REU seminars presented by the students. REU students will present three seminars during the course of the summer; a research proposal, a midterm report and a final report. These presentations provide an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback; as such, your attendance and engagement in these presentations is as important as the students'.

The goal of the program is to transition the student from a dependent status to a more independent role, where they learn to formulate a hypothesis, define a research plan and analyze the results. It is therefore imperative to formulate a project that is reasonably well defined, in which all of the materials and equipment are available for conducting research.

This year we are considering a Hands on Characterization Lab in which participants will be divided into group of 3 or 4 members and they will be trained on different instruments of their choice. There will be a Characterization Practicum and then each group of students will present a lecture on the techniques they learnt in depth at a short Characterization Symposium.

[Guidelines and Expectations](#)

PIs:

- Ensure preparations for the project are well underway before the interns arrive.
- Brief the mentor (one of your graduate students or post-doctoral fellows) who will be supervising the intern on a daily basis.

- Contact your REU student before arrival to introduce yourself, and to provide them with any information or materials they should familiarize themselves with.
- Meet with your intern on a weekly basis to be sure the project is moving well.
- Attend the three REU presentation sessions to support your intern. Assist them with their presentation skills.

Mentors:

- Select the instrument/tool your student should be trained on for Hands on Characterization
- Define a project that is manageable and can achieve significant results during the 10 week summer period. Develop a clear understanding, with the PI, of the scope and goals of the intern's project.
- Set up as much of the project as possible before the intern arrives, so that all equipment and materials are ready to go.
- Contact the intern before arrival to introduce yourself and brief them on the project and your expectations for the summer.
- Attend the Orientation Session Brunch to meet your REU student and get the summer started.
- Meet with your REU student on a daily basis. Guide them in solving the problems that arise.
- Set a role model for your intern; if they don't see you working hard, they will simply follow suit.
- Draw the REU student into the life of your research group.
- Attend the three REU presentation sessions to support your REU student. Assist them with their presentations and their proposal.

Thank you for your participation in this program, and for doing your part to make this summer a successful and enjoyable experience for our REU students!