

The Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement strives to promote the intellectual engagement of students through research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. CUSE accepts student proposals for funding many of these endeavors. Please note our **funding policies** to see if your project or activity is eligible for CUSE funding.

**CUSE is once again accepting funding applications, with the release of the newly redesigned common application. Click [HERE](#) to go to the common application.**

# UR@ND

Undergraduate Research at Notre Dame

From examining 16-century tombstones in Rome to investigating the effects of timber harvest on salmon streams in southeast Alaska, to writing a first novel . . . undergraduates at Notre Dame are extending the boundaries of learning and transforming their experiences as students. Whatever your interests or major, through research, scholarship, or creative endeavors, you can learn beyond what is covered in the classroom. You can discover or create new knowledge. An added bonus is the opportunity to work closely with one or more faculty mentors.



what is undergraduate research ?



benefits of undergraduate research



choosing a research project



finding a faculty mentor

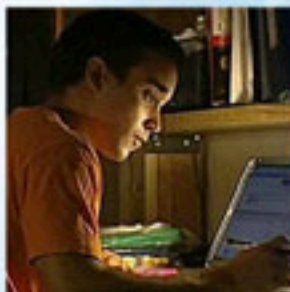
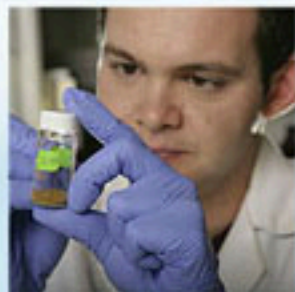


research opportunities and funding



featured examples of undergraduate research

## Choosing a research project



**Brainstorm** - What are you curious about? What are your intellectual interests? What are your passions?

**Articulate your questions** - Develop your research ideas by referencing various sources (courses, journals, articles, books, etc.).

**Prepare to approach faculty** - Conduct background work on professors' current research/scholarship; identify who might be a good "fit" for you; identify topics to discuss.

### Tip:

"Attend undergraduate research symposia and information meetings to see what kind of research interests you. Then, e-mail and talk to a few professors, because space for undergraduates in most labs is limited. Begin research as early as possible in your college career so that you have enough time to be trained and become independent with your research before graduation."

Laura Campochiaro  
Biology

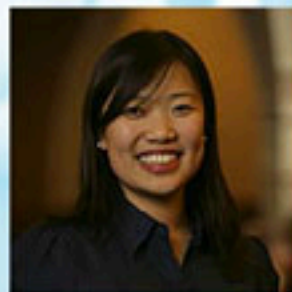
reload the page to see more tips  
from undergraduate researchers  
tip 2 of 6

Center for Undergraduate  
Scholarly Engagement

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### Featured examples of undergraduate researchers

Hundreds of Notre Dame students are involved in research, conferences, and creative endeavors, in all disciplines represented at the University. Click on the tabs above to read about the projects of just some of your peers.



## featured examples of undergraduate researchers



Jessica Peyton, '08  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

College of Arts and Letters  
History and Russian double major

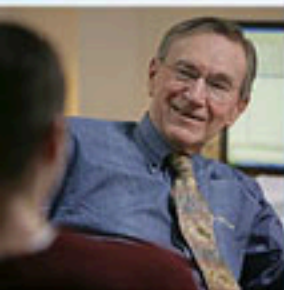
### Topic:

My research question is divided into two parts: First, to what degree did 19th-century historical Russian literary perceptions factor into the 1944 Stalinist-era deportations of the Meskhetian Turks, a small ethnic minority, from Georgia to Uzbekistan? I am also exploring the legacy of these deportations on modern Meskhetian Turks seeking repatriation in Georgia, on how they define themselves ethnically and culturally, and how this differs from the Georgian citizenry's definition of the Meskhetians.

As for methodology, I started with secondary research, using interlibrary loans to procure rare and one-of-a-kind texts that describe the Meskhetian Turks. The Hesburgh Library had excellent resources for the historical context of the deportations.

I also used a variety of primary sources. I read 19th-century Russian literature (Pushkin, Tolstoy, Lermontov) to gauge both societal perceptions and what perceptions were being fed to society via the media. Notre Dame's Nanovic Institute

## Finding a faculty mentor



If professor and project seem like a good fit, follow up by reading articles about the project topic, reading other work by the faculty member, or visiting with graduate and undergraduate students in that faculty member's lab or research group.

Schedule a meeting with the faculty member to find out more details about how to get involved.

Find out application deadlines for programs such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs), Undergraduate Research Opportunities (UROP), or Kellogg International Scholars Program, etc.

### Tip:

"Find a mentor who will challenge you to think in new ways about your data and conclusions. Don't automatically pick the person you think has the most expertise in your area of study. The best mentor may not always be the most obvious choice."

Alana Stelton  
English

reload the page to see more tips  
from undergraduate researchers

## Benefits of undergraduate research



Experience the thrill of discovery

Opportunity to chart one's own intellectual journey

Self-confidence



Understanding of how scientists/scholars work

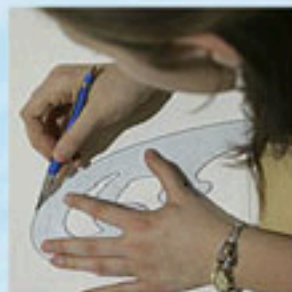
Discernment about majors, career paths

Enhanced graduate school preparation



Meaningful mentoring relationships with faculty

Collegial working relationship with peers



Development of skills for laboratory, archival, and field work

Improved communication skills

"I thought it would be an interesting opportunity to work on a creative project. It's a neat feeling to start with nothing and to develop an idea organically."

Caitlyn O'Shea  
Theatre

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