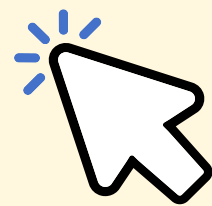


Get Involved in Research

UCI Undergraduate Research
Opportunities Program

The mouse icon, found
throughout these slides,
indicates clickable links to
relevant resources.

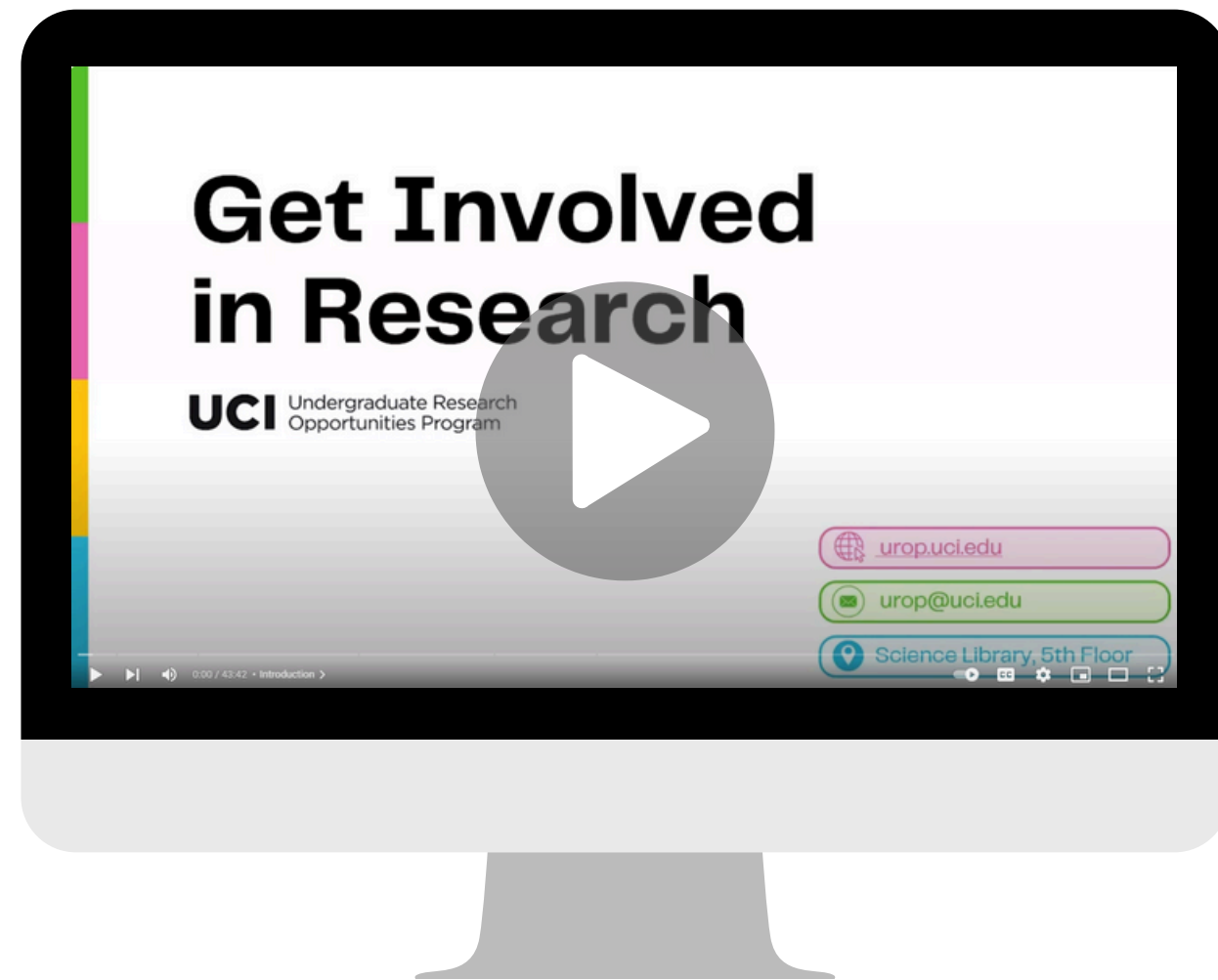


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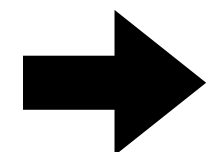
 [Science Library, 5th Floor](#) 

We strongly recommend that you watch our recorded “Get Involved in Research” Information Session before using the links in these slides



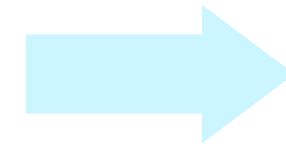
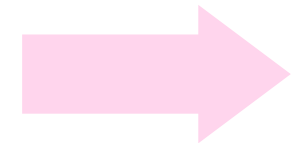
Access the Recording Here

Time stamps of when each slide is shown in the recording can be found in the right corner of each slide



00:00

What is Research?



Identify a challenge

Figure out how to
resolve it

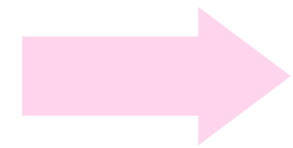
Resolve it

Research in Everyday Life



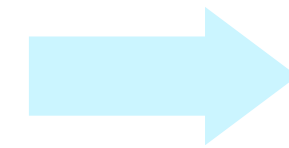
I'm hungry

Identify a challenge



Google "food near me"

Figure out how to
resolve it



**Found a place I want to
eat**

Resolve it

Benefits of Research

1 Hands-on experience

2 Transferrable skills

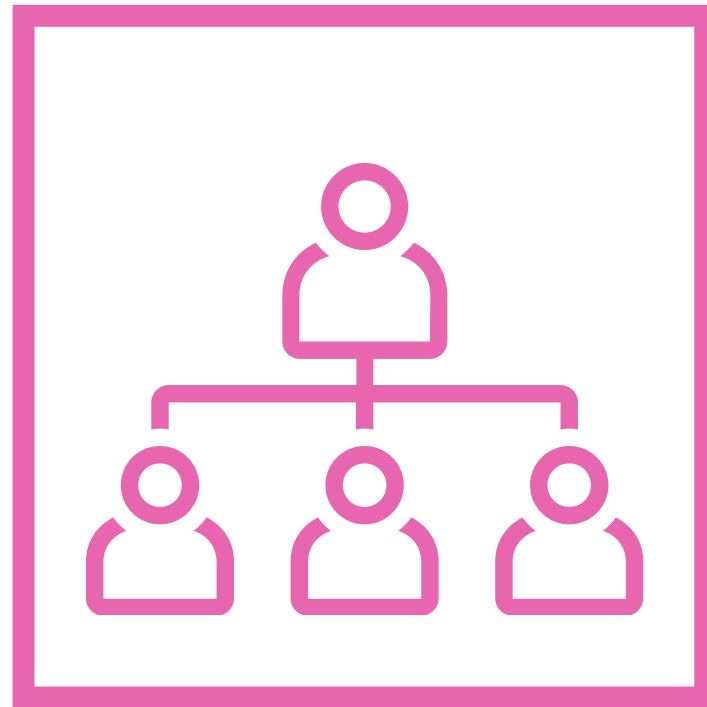
3 Real-world applications

4 Apply classroom knowledge

5 Collaborate with others

Is research right for me?

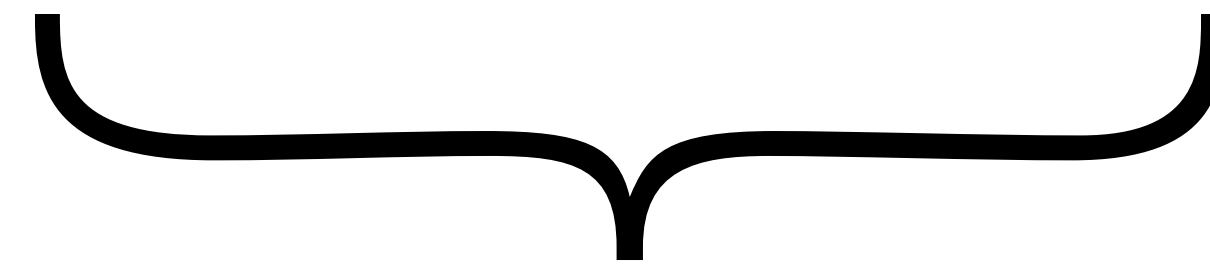
Research Models



Join a
Faculty Lab



Independent
Project



Both involve a faculty mentor!

Types of Compensation

1

Academic credit

Enroll in 199 or
other 190s course

2

Pay

Work study,
research grants

Talk to your faculty mentor. Your preferred method of compensation is not guaranteed.

How much time should I spend?

- **12–15 hours/week** during the school year
- **10–30 hours/week** in the summer
- **At least one school year** (3 quarters)

Can I do more?

When should I get started?

Whenever I'm ready.

Questions to ask myself:

- Do I have time in my schedule?
- Do I want to clarify my goals/plans?
- How long do I want to do this?
- How long before I graduate?

Consult an academic advisor in your departments to determine if any academic requirements affect your research timeline

Research is a three-step process:




Step 1:

Find a Research Topic

What topics interest you from your classes?

If you don't know, reflect on these questions:

- Why did I choose my major?
- What do I want to learn more about?
- What are UCI faculty researching?



**You may do
research
outside of your
major!**

Step 2:

Find Faculty Members

Make a list of faculty who interest you

- Faculty I know
- Faculty profiles:
 - faculty.uci.edu
- [Department websites](#)

Research them

- Google Scholar:
 - scholar.google.com
- Personal/lab websites

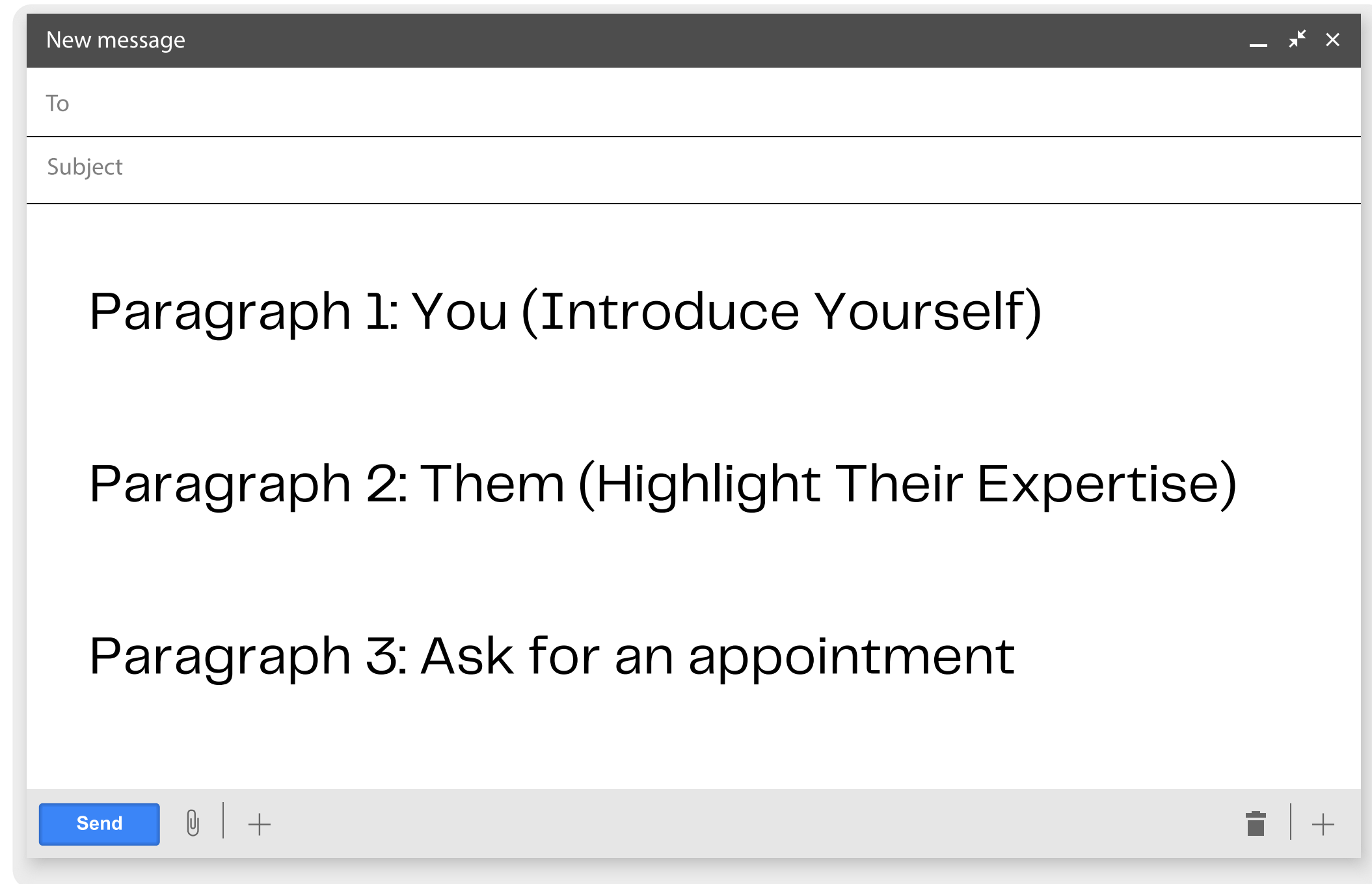
Step 3: Reach Out to Faculty



or



Emailing Faculty



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition window. The window has a dark header bar with the text "New message" and standard window control icons (minimize, maximize, close). Below the header, there are two input fields: "To" and "Subject". The main body of the email contains three paragraphs of text:

Paragraph 1: You (Introduce Yourself)

Paragraph 2: Them (Highlight Their Expertise)

Paragraph 3: Ask for an appointment

At the bottom of the window, there is a "Send" button on the left, followed by icons for attachments and a plus sign. On the right side of the bottom bar, there are icons for deleting and adding more options.


Goal: Get an appointment with faculty and start to build a relationship

28:22

Use the **“Sample Faculty Email”** to draft your email to professors!

Emailing Potential Faculty Mentors

After determining the topic you want to explore for your research project or creative experience, the next step is to search for potential faculty mentors. This guide will help you contact professors whose interests match yours.

Before You Contact Professors...	Write the Email	Consider the following
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research the professor and read some of their recent publications! This will increase your confidence that they are a good fit for your interests and help demonstrate to them that this is important to you.Do not become fixated on a very narrowly defined topic or research question. While you want to pursue your specific interests, it's important to be flexible when you're approaching professors.Research more than one professor. We recommend that you compile a list of at least three to five before you start contacting them.As you research professors, look for instructions for contacting them about possible research opportunities. If they have posted instructions, follow them. Otherwise, we recommend that you email them to ask for an opportunity to discuss your research interests. 	<p>The purpose of the email is to get a response and an opportunity to meet with the recipient to discuss your research interests further. Do not include information that does not directly serve that purpose.</p> <p>We suggest a three-paragraph format similar to the following:</p> <p>Paragraph 1: About You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Why do you want to do research?What type of research do you want to do?Do you have any background that is directly relevant to the research?Why does this matter to you? How will getting involved in research of this type help you get closer to whatever academic, career and personal goals you might have? <p>Paragraph 2: About the Professor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Why did you choose them as a good fit for your research interests?Give one or two specific examples from the research you have done on them, why you found them compelling, and how they fit with your goals. <p>Paragraph 3: Ask for an Appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">State your desire to meet with them to discuss your research interests and the possibility of conducting research under their guidance.Briefly include days/times that you're available (e.g., Monday through Wednesday from 11-4, and all day Friday)Your full name and contact information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The email should contain enough information to give them a reason to respond without being tediously long.Rigorously edit and proofread the email to make sure it's complete, concise and error-free. Consider making an appointment with the Writing Center for help. If you would like additional assistance, schedule an appointment with a UROP Advisor.Imagine that you are the faculty member reading your email: What is your reaction? Do you want to respond? Did the student effectively connect my research to their interests?Faculty are most interested in working with students who demonstrate passion, curiosity and motivation. Having been undergraduates themselves, they recognize that you don't have a lot of relevant knowledge or experience.Watch UROP's Guide to Emailing Faculty video for more information.Send a follow-up email after a week or so if you haven't received a response.Be sure to prepare before meeting with a professor: research them further, think of questions to ask, and be prepared to answer their questions openly and thoroughly.

559 Science Library | urop.uci.edu | linkedin.com/in/uciuroop | uciuroop | uropuci | (949) 824-4189

Need additional help? Watch our **“Guide to Emailing Professors”** by scanning the QR code below



Meet with them

Treat it like a job interview 



Prepare



Be punctual



Dress appropriately



Send a thank-you email

Why would faculty want to work with me?

- Passion, curiosity, and motivation
- You don't have to be an expert!

Remember: Professors are people too 

What can UROP do for me?

Help me get
started in
research

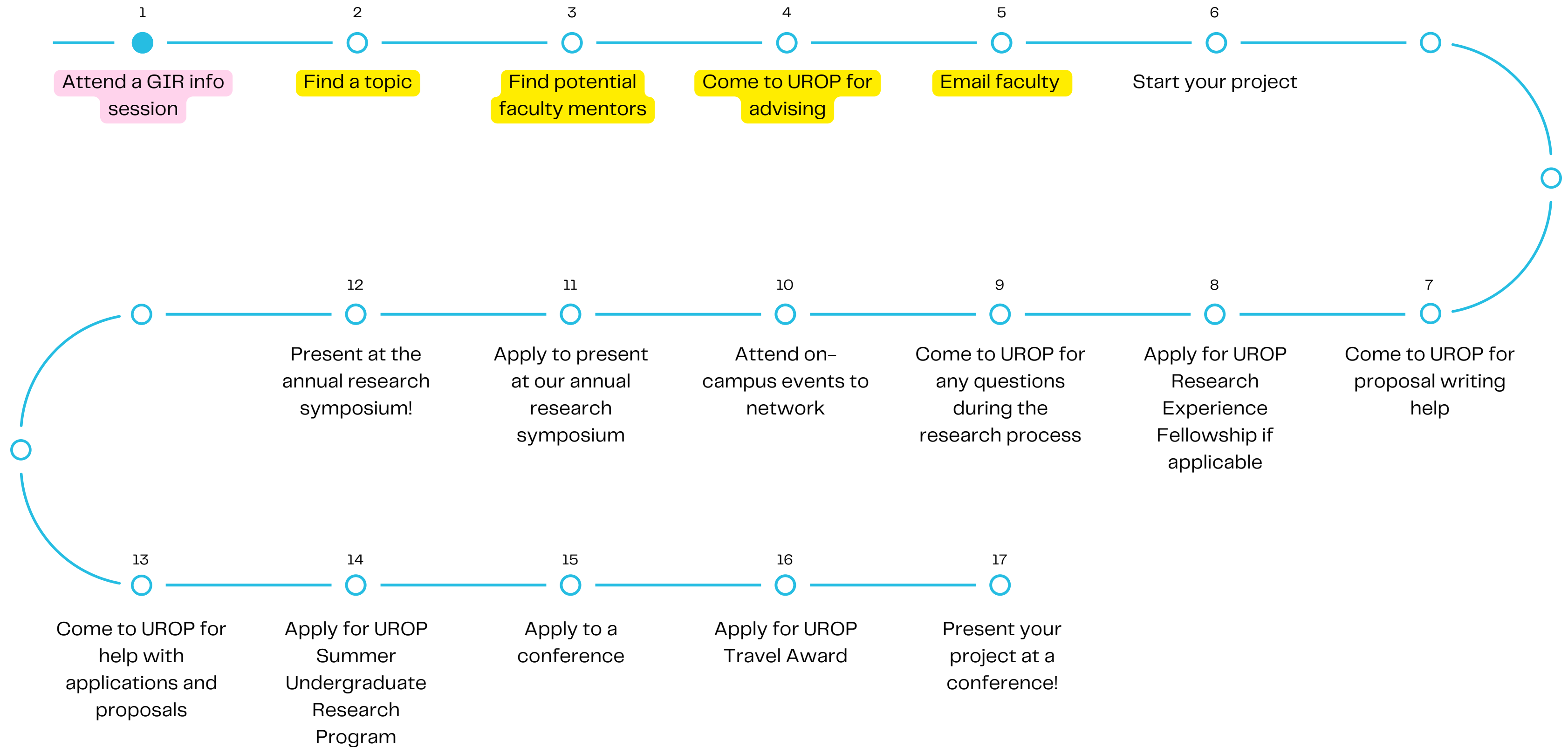
Support my
research

Help me
share my
research

 urop.uci.edu



Research Roadmap



Use the “How to Get Involved in Research Worksheet” to start your research journey!

How to Get Involved in Research Worksheet

Ask Yourself	Resources/Things to Consider	Your Responses
Did I complete the first steps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a “Get Involved in Research” Workshop. Can't attend or need a refresher? Watch the Workshop Recording. Review the UROP website. 	
Why do I want to do research?	<p>Don't know? Ask yourself if you want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain hands-on experience Contribute to my field of study Learn if my field is right for me Apply classroom knowledge 	
What do I want to research?	<p>Don't know? Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did I choose my major? What do I want to learn more about? What are UCI faculty researching? Look at the UCI Faculty Profile System, Google Scholar, and On-Campus Research for topic inspiration. What questions do I want to ask and answer? 	
What model of research do I want to do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab work, independent work, or other models? Don't know? Look at faculty profiles and Google Scholar to learn about options. 	
How much time am I willing to commit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12–15 hours a week 20 or more hours/week during the summer One or more school years 	
When should I get started?	<p>Don't know? Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do I have time in my schedule? Do I want to clarify my goals/plans? How long do I want to do this? How long before I graduate? 	
Have I researched which faculty I want as a mentor?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit the UCI Faculty Profile System, Google Scholar, and On-Campus Research Read websites and publications. 	
Have I contacted those faculty?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Faculty email template and watch the Guide to Emailing Professors video. 	
Am I prepared to meet with faculty?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read their publications more deeply, so that you can ask specific questions. Learn more about your topic through Google. Be prepared to talk specifically about why you want to do research with this professor. 	
How do I apply for UROP recognition & funding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit UROP Recognition and Funding. 	
If I still have questions after completing this worksheet, what should I do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit the UROP office in the Science Library, 5th floor, call (949) 824-4189, or email urop@uci.edu. Still need help? Schedule an Appointment with a UROP Advisor. 	

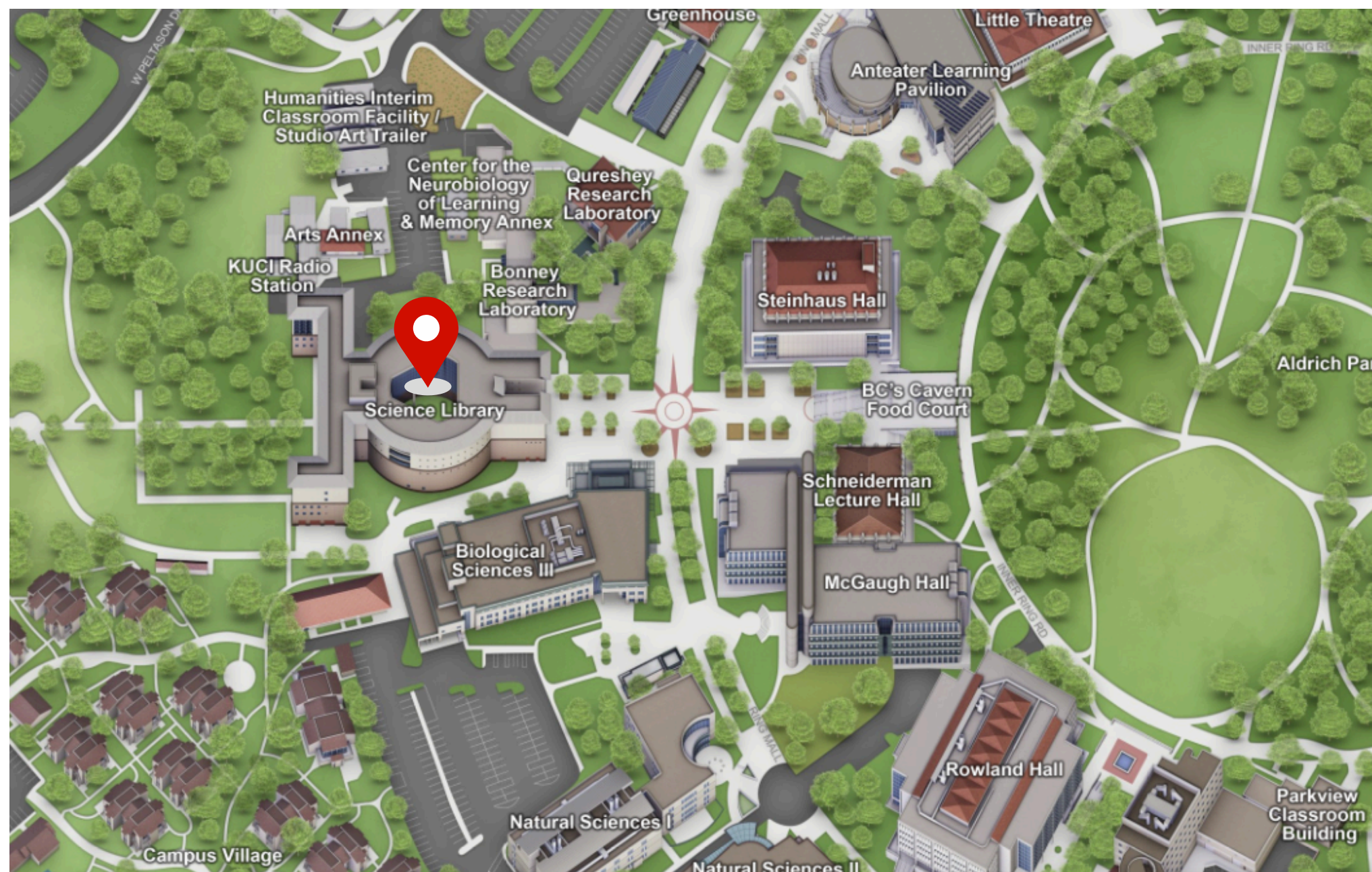
Revised: 9/18/24



UROOP Website



UCI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program



Have more questions after watching a “Get Involved in Research” Info Session?

Contact us! 

 urop.uci.edu

 urop@uci.edu

 Science Library, Office 559