

MENTEE APPLICATION TIPS

The mentee application asks students to answer the question:

“What interests me about this mentor’s research?”

However, there’s more to it than that! In about 300 words, mentees need to convey the excitement and the curiosity they have for their chosen mentor’s field. You need to convince the mentor that they should pick *you* to work with.

To help mentees with their applications, the REX committee has come up with some tips that they found helped them succeed in getting a mentor they wanted to work with.

ONE

Keep your application to around the word limit (300 words). If you write too little, mentors may think that you aren’t keen enough. If you write too much, mentors might find your application hard to read or skip over parts of it. Stay concise, write with a purpose, and convey your point!

TWO

Don’t write your application in a rush the night before! Put some thought into it ahead of time.

THREE

Apply for mentors that you are genuinely interested in! Your interest will show in your application, and the mentors will notice.

FOUR

Be specific! Referencing a mentor’s research is much more convincing than general statements of interest. Hint: Citations are a great place to look!

FIVE

Apply for as many mentors as you are able to! Due to the high volume of mentee applications mentors receive, it’s good to have several mentors looking at your application rather than just one.

SIX

Your application doesn’t have to be a solo process. Talk with friends to see what research they are interested in to get some ideas for yourself!

SEVEN

Take the time to edit your application for punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Your attention to detail is valued by mentors.

EIGHT

Include personal details about why the research your mentor is doing interests you, if applicable. You could mention when you first heard about a field, why it matters to you, or how it connects to work you have done before.