

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What will an online Research EXperience Program look like?**

The 2021-2022 cycle of the REX program will remain predominantly online. This means that REX information sessions, workshops, and learning experiences will be available completely online. However, mentors and mentees are free to hold their meetings in-person whilst continuing to follow recommendations from BC Health authorities.

Events hosted by REX will be provided both in a synchronous and asynchronous fashion to accommodate students in alternative time zones. We will be doing everything we can to ensure that all mentors and mentees have access to a variety of resources to ensure your success in the program, including communication with us via email ([rex.uro.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:rex.uro.ubc@gmail.com)) and Slack channels for mentors. You can also keep up-to-date with information on the program on our website: [www.uro.ubc.com](http://www.uro.ubc.com)

### **What is the Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC) and will it be happening this year?**

MURC is the largest undergraduate research conference in BC! MURC **will** be happening, whether in person or online, in the spring of 2022. All REX mentees will have the opportunity to choose whether they would like to present their research projects at the conference. MURC is a fantastic way for REX mentees to gain both insight into the UBC research community and experience in terms of presenting their work in a professional environment. There will be workshops regarding abstracts and presenting for students, hosted by MURC. **Please note that REX does not run MURC, so questions about MURC should be directed towards MURC organizers, not the REX Committee.** For more information on MURC, check out their website: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/career/murc>

### **Why should I register to be an REX mentor?**

The Research EXperience program is an incredibly beneficial opportunity for both our mentees and our mentors. Mentorship of undergraduate students is a standout experience on any resumé or CV to a prospective employer. Mentors are eligible to receive proof that they participated in the program, as well as letters of recommendation from their own mentees as well as the REX committee chairs.

### **Am I obligated to let students into my lab?**

No. We inform all of our students that their projects are proposals and there is no “wet lab” component to REX. Feel free to allow students into your lab or research group if you wish, but this is **not** an obligation of the REX program. Many projects consist of literature reviews.

**How are mentors and mentees matched up?**

As a mentor, you will submit a short profile summarizing your research interests to be posted on our website. Students will indicate their preferred mentors when they apply to the program. You will then have the opportunity to browse through interested students' applications and to select your preferred mentees. Matching will be finalized in October with each group consisting of around 2-4 students and a mentor.

**I have never mentored undergraduates before. Can I be a mentor?**

Yes! REX is the perfect opportunity to help sharpen your mentoring skills. We will also be holding mentoring workshops to assist you.

**Does the research question have to be related to my current research project?**

No; however, we suggest you indicate the field of research you want your mentees to be focusing on in your Mentor Profile. If you have a specific project you would like mentees to work on, also mention this in your profile.

**Do I need to be UBC affiliated to apply to be a mentor?**

Historically, REX mentors have been UBC affiliated staff members. However, this is not a mandatory requirement. In the past we have recruited mentors from organizations that are not UBC affiliated (e.g. the BC Cancer Institute). If you are not UBC affiliated and would like to apply to be a mentor, please contact us for more information at our email address ([rex.uro.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:rex.uro.ubc@gmail.com)).