

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THEORETICAL RESEARCH?

Theoretical research is the process of developing conceptual frameworks for areas of research that can be resolved through further experimentation and measurements. As a REX mentee, you would plan a study, set a goal, and come up with a hypothesis and prediction. Although this research is not typically carried out, it can be an excellent way to develop a project in a topic you are interested in for the future.

For the 2021-22 cycle, REX will be mostly online. Thus, you are not required to meet up with your mentor in order to complete the REX project. However, if both groups are comfortable, you may choose to meet up in person provided you follow BC health guidelines.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR REX?

The average REX group commits around 10 hours per month. However, it may vary depending on your mentor and group dynamic. REX recommends having one meeting a week. The time you need to put into your project may vary throughout the year, likely increasing as MURC approaches in March. Due to the online nature of REX in the 2021-22 cycle, we also recommend setting up a consistent meeting schedule and a clear communication channel early on as a way to keep everyone accountable.

WHAT IS THE FINAL GOAL OF THE REX PROGRAM?

Typically, students present their work at the UBC Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC), in the form of either a poster or oral presentation, though poster presentations are more common. Every group will be required to write an abstract if they want to present at MURC. A full paper is not expected, unless you would like to write it up. You may also want to write a research project proposal with the guidance of your mentor.

MURC is confirmed to be occurring for the 2021-22 year (either online or in-person).

DO I GET TO WORK IN MY MENTOR'S LAB/RESEARCH CENTRE?

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REX does not guarantee “wet lab” experience. Some mentors may provide this opportunity if students demonstrate the necessary expectations (e.g good work ethic) however this is completely up to the discretion of the mentor.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY MENTOR?

You can expect your mentor to help guide you through your project and answer any relevant questions you may have. Each REX group may have varying levels of experience so your mentor may not know the level of guidance you need. Thus if you require any assistance or clarification on any aspect of your project, please let your mentor know. Communication is extremely important when conducting a REX project and so please do not feel hesitant in reaching out to them.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM THE REX COMMITTEE?

The REX Committee is here to facilitate the matching process and provide guidance to mentors and mentees. We host workshops to help students develop basic research skills, but we are *not* involved in any particular project and we do not facilitate group meetings. Although the REX Committee sets out suggested deadlines throughout the year, groups are expected to develop their projects according to their own timeline or system. We are also here to help groups resolve any conflicts they may run into during the REX program. If you are struggling with anything, feel free to schedule an appointment with us. Otherwise, you can contact us by email at rex.uro.ubc@gmail.com with any other questions you may have.

ARE MURC AND REX THE SAME THING?

REX is not affiliated with MURC. However, most REX mentees choose to present their finished project at MURC. Any questions regarding the conference should be directed to the MURC planning committee at undergraduate.research@ubc.ca.