

Some UT Graduate Student REU Quotes

“I did a computational algebraic geometry REU at Rice. I thought it was a lot of work, very frustrating, and maybe even a little bit demoralizing. But I learned a bunch of math and met some cool people. I think it was definitely a worthwhile experience.”

“I did an REU at Tulane University in New Orleans in the summer of 2003. I had a great time, despite/because the particular professor I was working for did not make us do very much math. In all, I thought it was a rewarding experience, a good resume booster, and the first time I got paid to do math! “

“I did the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program as a junior. It was really good, both mathematically and culturally. Budapest is an amazing city. The math there is really cool. Part of the program is a focus on creative problem solving in the Hungarian style.

“I also did the Williams REU (SMALL). It was great. It's one of the largest and more intense REU's out there and students frequently come out of it with a publication (which is cool). I would recommend applying to this program to anyone that might be thinking about grad school.”

“I did BSM. I liked it. I also did the LSU REU and the William and Mary REU. They were ok, but I wouldn't recommend them too highly.”

“I did an REU at Brigham Young University. I didn't love it; I feel like my experience could be of value to someone deciding which REU's to apply to. I didn't like it in part for math reasons; mathematically, it was a frustrating situation. But it was really good to have on my grad school applications. I also went abroad to the program in Budapest, which is not an REU, but was a really amazing and valuable experience.”

“I was at an REU at Indiana University for a summer. I gave a presentation on my project at the MAA MathFest that year and won an award for it. I did the REU for the fall and spring semesters of the next year also. It was awesome and I definitely suggest doing it.”

Some REU Information

Q. What is an REU?

A. REU stands for Research Experience for Undergrads. Universities across the US host summer internships for undergraduates in scientific disciplines. The structure of a math REU is highly variable and can mean anything from an intense summer school to working with a few other students on a research project.

Q. Who should apply to a Math REU?

A. Undergraduates thinking about graduate school in math who have completed junior level course work. REU are very competitive. Most programs only take a few students and require at least a semester of analysis and/or algebra.

Q. When are applications due?

A. Application for Math REU are usually due any time from the middle of January to the end of February (see the REU website for more details).

Q. Who to ask for a letter of recommendation?

A. A professor who knows your mathematical ability well (i.e. a professor from whom you took analysis or algebraic structures).

Q. Where can I find a list of math REU?

http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.cfm?unitid=5044

Q. Are there other summer math programs?

PCMI <http://pcmi.ias.edu/>

Math Programs for Women:

Carleton Summer Program <http://www.math.carleton.edu/smp/>
Women and Mathematics at IAS <http://www.math.ias.edu/womensprogram/>

SPWM <http://www.gwu.edu/~spwm/>

Semester Math Programs:

Budapest <http://www.budapestsemesters.com/>

Math in Moscow <http://www.mccme.ru/mathinmoscow/>

Pen State <http://www.math.psu.edu/mass/>