



# RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

SUMMER 2026 AT THE SETI INSTITUTE IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

## THE PROGRAM

The SETI Institute ([www.seti.org](http://www.seti.org)), a non-profit private, scientific research institution located in California's Silicon Valley, invites you to apply for a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program for highly motivated students who are interested in research related to astronomy, astrobiology, and planetary science. You will work with scientists at the SETI Institute and NASA Ames Research Center. Research topics span the field of astrobiology, from microbiology to planetary geology to observational astronomy.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

The program includes a week-long field trip to Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory in Northern California, and to nearby Lassen Volcanic National Park. At Hat Creek, students will engage in a collaborative radio astronomy project focused on the SETI Institute's Allen Telescope Array. At Lassen, a field experience studying hydrothermal systems will give students an opportunity to consider habitability and other topics in astrobiology.

Students will also participate in local field trips to places such as historic Lick Observatory, the NASA Ames Wind Tunnel facility, and other nearby locations of scientific interest. They will attend seminars, lectures, and discussions on astronomy, astrobiology, and planetary science. Students will live in dormitory housing at nearby NASA Ames Research Center. At the end of the summer, students will give presentations on their research projects, and many will be funded to present their research at various national scientific conferences.

## PROGRAM DATES

May 31 to August 8, 2026.

Application Deadline: Sunday, February 1, 2026.

## RESEARCH AREAS

- Astronomy and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), including but not limited to: Planetary formation, SETI and radio astronomy, Extrasolar planets, Astrobiochemistry.
- Planetary Science and the Search for Life in the Solar System, including but not limited to: Asteroids, comets, and meteors, Saturn's rings, Mars geomorphology and spectroscopy, Preparing for human exploration of the Moon and Mars.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Undergraduate student.
- U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident (i.e., green card).
- Ready to devote yourself full-time to a 10-week summer internship at the SETI Institute.
- The SETI Institute particularly encourages REU applicants who are from communities that are underrepresented in astronomy and other STEM fields; including Black, Native, or Latine students, as well as veterans, students with disabilities, and students who are part of the first generation of their family to attend college. We also welcome students who are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$7,000 (\$700/week for the 10 weeks of the program).

In addition, participants will be provided with dorm housing and travel reimbursement for travel from home or campus to the San Francisco Bay Area.

## APPLY ONLINE

<https://www.seti.org/reu>

For more information, email us at [reu\\_director@seti.org](mailto:reu_director@seti.org)

