

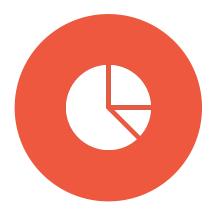
# How to Find a SURF Mentor

MARIA MANZANARES

CYNTHIA ALARCON

OCTOBER 21, 2021

#### Overview







HINTS FOR FINDING A MENTOR.

TIPS FOR MAKING CONTACT.

TIMELINE.

### AT CALTECH

Hints for finding a mentor

AT JPL

**OFF-CAMPUS** 



#### Six academic divisions

## Finding a mentor at Caltech



Twenty-seven <u>undergraduate</u> <u>options</u> and 31 <u>graduate school</u> <u>options</u>



50 research centers and institutes

### Finding a mentor at Caltech

01

Spend time looking at faculty websites and identifying faculty/research of interest

02

Peruse SFP/SURF
Seminar Day 2021
abstract book

03

Use your network: other students, your advisor, your professors, RAs 04

Review SURF Announcements of Opportunity (AOs) 05

Attend pizza courses

### Finding a mentor at JPL

01

Review Announcements of Opportunity (AOs) 02

Attend Explore JPL series (starting 10/25)

03

Peruse SFP/SURF Seminar Day 2021 04

Use your network: other students, your advisor, your professors

Additional
Help Finding a
mentor for
CMS Students

01

View On-Campus and Off-Campus CMS Mentors.

02

Create your account with a CS Interest Sheet by November 1

03

After November1, we will share your info with mentors and they will reach out.

04

If there is an agreement to work together, you start your SURF Proposal and submit Feb 22.

### Finding an off-campus



Use your network: other students, your advisor, your professors, friends at other schools







Talk with the SFP office



### Tips for making contact

Start a list and keep track
Don't spam
Have a resume

Send an email, follow-up
Ask the administrative assistant for help in setting up a meeting
Contact a graduate student or postdoc in group

Be professional

Have confidence that you have something to offer, but don't act entitled

Provide information about yourself

Clearly state why you are interested in the research

Request a meeting

Review interview guidelines on SFP website

#### Timeline

Now: start exploring

Thanksgiving: make a plan

Winter break: get serious

January: get really serious

January: attend information sessions; reach out to the SFP office for help

February 22: applications due



### Questions