How to Find a SURF Mentor

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Overview

HINTS FOR FINDING A MENTOR.

TIPS FOR MAKING CONTACT.

TIMELINE.
Hints for finding a mentor

AT CALTECH

AT JPL

OFF-CAMPUS
Finding a mentor at Caltech

- Six academic divisions
- Twenty-seven undergraduate options and 31 graduate school options
- 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 abstract book
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 November 1, 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 placement:

1. Use your network: other students, your advisor, your professors, friends at other schools
2. Browse websites of schools you are interested in going to
3. Check-out option seminars
5. Talk with the SFP office
6. Check-out Announcements of Opportunity (AOs)
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