

Undergraduate Research Resources for CED Students

APPRENTICESHIP RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Working as a research assistant for a professor is a great way to become familiar with how research is carried out in your area, gain experience, and build faculty connections.

Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP) <http://research.berkeley.edu/urap/>

URAP is designed to involve Berkeley undergraduates more deeply in the research life of the University. The Program provides opportunities for you to work with faculty on the cutting edge research projects for which Berkeley is world-renowned. Working closely with faculty, you will deepen your knowledge and skills in areas of special interest, while experiencing what it means to be part of an intellectual community engaged in research.

Faculty Research

If you see that a faculty member is conducting research you find interesting, you can inquire about ways you might get involved. Going to your professor's office hours is another great way to find out what they are currently working on and to find research opportunities.

UCB Faculty Profiles: <http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/>

CED Faculty Profiles: <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/people/faculty>

DEVELOP YOUR OWN RESEARCH PROJECT

A research thesis or project allows you to explore topics you are particularly interested in and to become involved with an intellectual community engaged in research.

Research Methods Courses

CED offers research methods courses that can provide structure for your thesis or project. Take a look at City Planning 116 (Urban Planning Process—The Undergraduate Planning Studio), City Planning 140 (Urban Design: City-Building and Place-Making), City Planning 190 (Advanced Topics in Urban Studies, as taught by Professor Michael Dear), and Environmental Design 195 (Senior Thesis).

Supervised Independent Study (Special Studies)

If you are interested in doing your own research, and would like to receive unit credit, look into the option of designing a 99 or 199 special studies course. To do this, you will need to find a Faculty Sponsor and propose your own study. Speak to an adviser in 250 Wurster for more information on this option. http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/forms/academic/ced_special-studies-course-petition.pdf Take ENV DES 195, CED's thesis preparation course, to get started.

Undergraduate Research at Berkeley <http://research.berkeley.edu/>

Berkeley is well known for its dynamic research environment. As an undergraduate, there are many ways for you to participate in this vital research community. For a huge array of opportunities, see <http://research.berkeley.edu/> Check the website for research workshops ("**Getting Started in Undergraduate Research**" and "**Writing a Research Proposal**") that can help you hone your application for a research program or honors thesis program. Note that there is funding available to support independent research projects!

The Big Ideas Competition <http://bigideas.berkeley.edu/>

The Big Ideas@Berkeley Initiative provides funding, support, and encouragement to interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students who have "big ideas."

The Capstone and Beyond, Strategies for Success Seminar <http://slc.berkeley.edu/courses/index.htm>

This 2 unit P/NP seminar course offered by the Student Learning Center is designed to assist students undertaking a capstone project such as an independent study project, senior thesis, or honors thesis. The course is designed to prepare and support students by emphasizing the strategies essential to sound inquiry and the preparation of scholarly texts for dissemination in a variety of forums for a variety of audiences. Students will apply strategies of negotiating academic discourse conventions of authors and instructors in relevant disciplines, develop effective strategies to schedule and manage a capstone project, and develop ways to communicate insights garnered from students' capstone projects to a variety of audiences.

CED-RELATED INSTITUTES AND CENTERS

There is a wide range of research happening within the College of Environmental Design. Visit the Research section) of the CED website (<http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/research> to learn more. Peruse these centers for events, inspiration, contacts, and/or resource that might related to your area of interest.

Berkeley Center for New Media (BCNM) <http://bcnm.berkeley.edu/>

New media can transform how we perceive, learn, communicate, and experience the world. What is "new" is accelerating rapidly with emerging technologies, yet remains deeply rooted in powerful aesthetic, cultural, and political forces. The Berkeley Center for New Media, located at the center of design and information technology, is based in a public research university known for alternative thinking. The center's mission is to critically analyze and help shape developments in new media from cross-disciplinary and global perspectives that emphasize humanities and the public interest.

Building Resilient Regions (BRR) <http://brr.berkeley.edu/>

BRR uses the lens of economic and demographic regional challenges to investigate why regions matter now, what constitutes resilience in the face of these challenges, and what factors (including regional asset bases, governance modes, actor choices and civic practices) help to build and sustain regional resilience. The project interweaves quantitative data analysis, qualitative case studies, and other targeted methods, including GIS mapping, organizational surveys, and content analysis.

Cal Design Lab at Wurster <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/caldesignlab/>

The Cal Design Lab is a collaborative project of UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, Haas School of Business, and School of Information. Established in spring 2010, the lab is an experimental studio space where faculty and students can come together with others from across campus — entrepreneurs, information technologists, industrial designers, and engineers — to work on critical design challenges.

Center for Community Innovation (CCI) <http://communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/>

CCI nurtures effective solutions that expand economic opportunity, diversify housing options, and strengthen connection to place. The work of the center focuses on four topic areas: revitalizing neighborhoods; developing economic resilience; designing and programming for the public realm; and producing and preserving affordable housing.

Center for Environmental Design Research (CEDR) <http://www.cedr.berkeley.edu/>

CEDR fosters research in environmental planning and design, ranging from the local environments of people within buildings to region-wide ecosystems, from small details of building construction to large-scale urban planning, from the history of the built environment to the design process itself. CEDR manages and edits *Places*, the main journal in the U.S. principally focused on urban design.

Center for Global Metropolitan Studies <http://metrostudies.berkeley.edu/>

By the year 2025, the world's population will reach 8,000,000,000, and almost 60% of those people will live in metropolitan regions. Around the globe, this growth in metropolitan areas is already affecting nature, the built environment, and society in profound ways. The Center for Global Metropolitan Studies coordinates research and instruction among faculty from many departments and schools to better understand the implications of worldwide growth in metropolitan areas and to develop strategies to improve urbanization processes and outcomes. The center supports the undergraduate urban and metropolitan studies major and two interdisciplinary graduate teaching groups in Comparative Metropolitan Studies, and Infrastructure & the Environment.

Center for Resource Efficient Communities (CREC) <http://crec.berkeley.edu/>

CREC's initial focus is on evaluating the resource efficiency of urban designs and streetscapes, particularly their relationship to human comfort and decision-making regarding walking and bicycling as a substitute for car use. CREC is also interested in strategies to moderate urban climate and heat island effects, and the economic, financial, and legal implications of resource efficient communities. The CREC is supported in part by public goods research funding through the California Energy Commission.

Center for the Built Environment (CBE) <http://www.cbe.berkeley.edu/aboutus/facilities.htm>

The mission of CBE is to improve the design, operation, and environmental quality of buildings by providing timely, unbiased information on building technologies and design techniques.

Green Buildings Research Center <http://greenbuildings.berkeley.edu/>

The Green Buildings Research Center is a permanent campus institution dedicated to research and teaching about sustainable design and to improving the sustainability of buildings on campus. Because Berkeley has by far the largest building research establishment in the UC system, this center could grow to involve other campuses system-wide.

Institute of Urban and Regional Development (IURD) <http://iurd.berkeley.edu/>

IURD helps scholars and students understand the dynamics of communities, cities, and regions while informing public policy at local, state, and national levels.

The International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE) <http://iaste.berkeley.edu/>

IASTE is concerned with the comparative and cross-cultural understanding of traditional habitat as an expression of informal cultural conventions. IASTE's purpose is to serve as an umbrella association for all scholars studying vernacular, indigenous, popular, and traditional environments. Activities are centered around its biennial conferences, and the publication of *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* and the *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Working Paper Series*. The conferences, attracting audiences of over 300 participants, are held in different locations worldwide.

Shrinking Cities Group <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/research/institutes>

Today, every 6th city in the world can be defined as a "shrinking city". This is a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing cities, parts of cities, or metropolitan areas that are experiencing a dramatic decline in their economic and social bases. The causes of this urban decline are many and complex. The Shrinking Cities Group comprises academics and planning professionals across four continents and addresses the global phenomena of cities experiencing dramatic decline in their economic and social bases.

ADDITIONAL CED RESOURCES

Environmental Design Archives <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/research/libraries>

The Design Archives contain more than 100 collections of historic architecture and landscape documents, including drawings, plans, correspondence, reports, specifications, photographs, plant lists, subject files, and artifacts.

The Environmental Design Library <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/>

The Library has countless books on conducting research, qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and reference assistance to help you develop research strategies. The extensive guide, *Designing a Research Strategy* (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/research_strategy.html) is a good starting point and you can also seek assistance from a reference librarian.