

## Statement of Interest

One of my major goals is to become proficient as a scientist so that I can pursue a career addressing both theoretical and applied questions. In order to accomplish these goals, I am taking courses to obtain a background in taxonomy, ecology, and statistics in my undergraduate program in Ecology, evolution, and behavior at Hogwarts University. Though I have had some research experience, I recognize that I need solid hands-on experience in field ecological research. I think participating in your REU program will definitely provide that experience.

The Research Experience for Undergraduates will be invaluable preparation for my eventual plans of graduate school research. An entire summer under the mentorship of scientists who are devoted to research would provide me with a strong foundation in the ends and outs that are essential to conducting first-rate research and work in ecology. I hope this program will teach me to ask good questions, to design and carry out rigorous experiments, and to facilitate my development as a writer. These are necessary skills become an independent scientist.

I am particularly interested in conducting research that combines unicorniology and botany. Specifically, [ Briefly explain specific questions and perhaps previous research experiences that catalyzed these interests/questions]. If you have conducted previous research it's really good to include some brief description of the results.

I feel I could offer several skills to my mentors and fellow students in this REU program. The first skill would be enthusiasm for pursuing ideas and discovering new things about how nature works. This is key in research that often involves long hours of tedious tasks and without enthusiasm for the bigger ideas, it's easy to get lost in the monotony. In addition, I can work happily on my own in remote locations or with a group sharing research tasks and pursuing questions together. Finally, I think I bring considerable experience from a variety of other areas to your research program. I thank you for your consideration for your summer program.

