

Getting Started In Undergraduate Research at JHU



<https://hour.jhu.edu/>

HOUR@jhu.edu

This presentation is designed to introduce you to:

- The **history, scope and current climate** for undergraduate involvement in research at JHU.
- **What ‘research’ entails for undergrads at JHU**, including examples of different research journeys for JHU undergraduates.
- How essential it is to explore **your own expectations** for your research journey at Hopkins **before** seeking opportunities.
- The tenet that **there’s no ‘one right way’** for you to explore, identify, obtain and navigate your undergraduate research experience, but **HOUR can help you with best practices** to optimize your efforts.
- A very brief overview of the **resources available to all JHU undergraduate students** from HOUR and other JHU departments and offices.

Research at Hopkins: Where undergraduates and HOUR fit in

<https://hour.jhu.edu/>



How we got here:



- Hopkins is the **first research university** in the western hemisphere.
- Hopkins has **led the US in research and development spending** every year since 1979.
- Hopkins has amazing faculty recognized for their groundbreaking research with awards such as the **Nobel Prize, National Medal of Science, Pulitzer Prize** and more. We have also recruited a cohort of elite faculty, the **Bloomberg Distinguished Professors (BDPs)*** renowned for their interdisciplinary work. **Note: ALL BDPs work with undergraduates!*
- Prior to the establishment of HOUR in 2016-17, there was **no office, staff or funding specifically dedicated to assisting undergraduates** seeking research experiences.
- HOUR is part of a team of offices supporting Hopkins undergraduates in experiential learning pursuits. HOUR, the Life Design Lab, University Experiential Learning, and the the Global Education Office are housed in the **Imagine Center** for Integrative Learning and Life Design (ILLD) at the north end of campus.
- HOUR's two full-time staff support ALL undergraduates at JHU.



Facts about undergraduate research at Hopkins today:

- MOST undergraduates report they chose Hopkins for the **amazing research opportunities available**.
- In fact, **over 80%** of Hopkins undergrads participate in extracurricular research experiences.
- **Research occurs in every field, department, and major** from traditional STEM to Arts and Humanities, with interdisciplinary research happening across all JHU divisions.
- The typical undergraduate research experience is **6-10 hours per week during academic semesters**.
- Some majors require students to complete up to 6 credits of independent research for their degree. There are also limits on credits permitted. Academic credit is considered a form of compensation.
- Most research, clinical, and shadowing opportunities are completely uncompensated ('volunteer').
HOUR is working diligently change this culture by making equitable compensation the norm.
- **ALL researchers in all divisions are available** for undergraduates to work with, whether Nobel laureate faculty, professional staff, or anyone in between. Some postdocs and grad students mentor, as well.
- Students are **not limited** to researching within their major or minor. They are free to explore!

The HOUR vision is to create equitable access to impactful research opportunities for all Hopkins undergraduates.





What HOURS offers JHU's undergraduate researchers

<https://hour.jhu.edu/getstarted/>



HOUR is NOT a match-making service, where students come to us, tell us their major, and we hand them an opportunity!

Instead, by engaging students across multiple modalities we:

- Learn about the student and help them to identify their interests, goals, and needs
- Introduce them to and provide best practices for navigating resources such as the ForagerOne platform
- Review their email templates, resumes, personal statements, research proposals and other documents, providing constructive feedback
- Connect them with other university and external resources
- Ensure that the HOUR website provides one-stop shopping for for current, accurate and complete information about funding and presentation opportunities as well as connections to resources within Hopkins and beyond.



Visit <https://hour.jhu.edu>

HOUR provides:

A mindset that there is no “one right way” to undertake an undergraduate research journey, but equipped with a comprehensive set of tools and best practices, JHU students can optimize their own experience.

HOUR’s student-facing website and linked platforms host an extensive range of resources:



- Tools for finding research opportunities and connecting with potential mentors at JHU
- A database of programs and funding opportunities across JHU and outside Hopkins
- JHU-specific funding and programs
- Opportunities to present research, scholarly and creative projects
- An online peer-to-peer community on CampusGroups
- How-to materials presented in multiple modalities, including online guides and tutorials, workshops, and tailored presentations
- Connections to peers, groups and organizations with shared interests
- Staff available via email, social media, daily office hours and by appointment
- FAQs explored at every step of the way

And now....



...a breakneck romp through some of the topics HOUR covers and best practices we offer.

Resources and tips for seeking positions and mentoring

<https://hour.jhu.edu/opportunities/>



Please take a quick look at our two primary online resources for JHU undergraduate researchers:

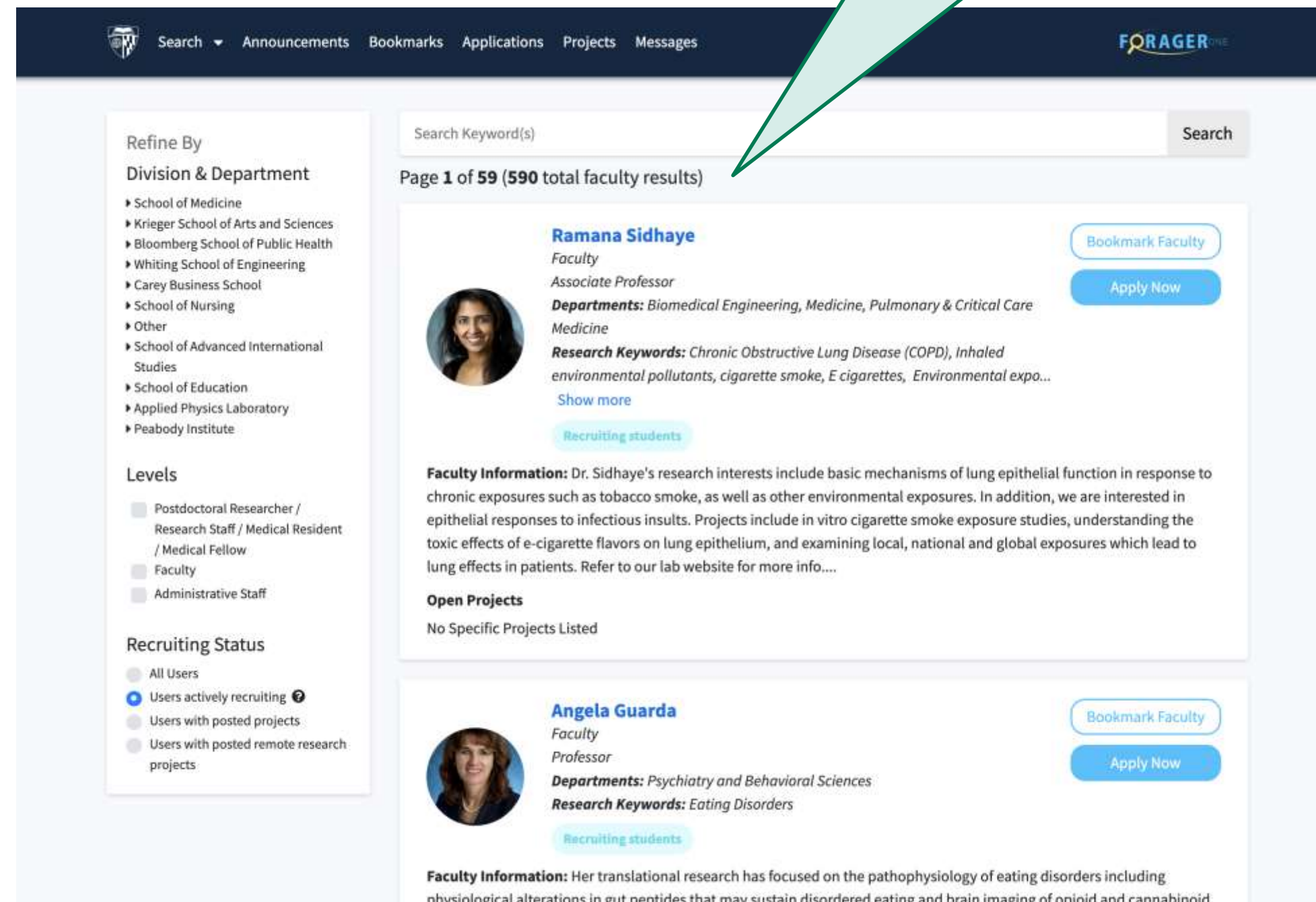


HOUR's website: <https://hour.jhu.edu>

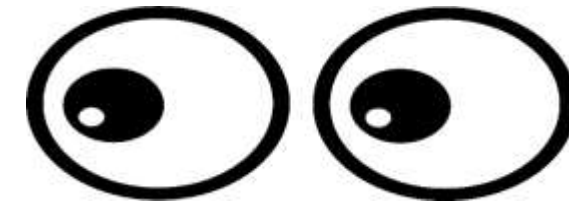
HOUR's JHU mentor search tool, ForagerOne

<https://foragerone.com>

As of the date of this presentation:
590 faculty actively recruiting
52 posted projects
25 remote/virtual projects



Step 1: Be prepared



Before you start contacting researchers, consider these logistical ‘must haves’ and ‘dealbreakers’:

- When do you want to start (immediately, next semester, next summer)?
- Do you need compensation? Get paid (hard to find), receive credit, volunteer (just for the experience)?
- How many hours can you commit each week and what days are you available?
- Can you travel to a different campus or location, or do you want to stay on Homewood?
- Have you factored in time for a part-time job, athletics, clubs & social events, personal care (like eating and sleeping)?



THESE ARE IMPORTANT!!



Step 2: Make a list

What are some key words that identify your research interests? Research can be in your major or anything you are curious about and want to explore. The more specific you can be with your key words, even if you have diverse interests, the better results you will get!



Step 3: Identify Researchers

- Talk to professors, TAs, classmates, advisors, research librarians, watch social media. Never underestimate the power of networking!
- Do a **Google** search using "JHU" - **your keyword/s** - "**research.**"
- Identify faculty and discover research centers, institutes, working groups, and related articles!


The screenshot shows the my.jh.edu website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Johns Hopkins University & Medicine logo and the my.JH logo. Below the navigation bar, there are four tabs: APPS, PEOPLE, TOPICS, and DEPARTMENTS. A search bar is located below the tabs, with the placeholder text "For example: Last, First" and a search icon. A yellow box highlights the text "Find email addresses in <https://my.jh.edu/>". A pink arrow points from this box to the search bar. Below the search bar, a profile for William S Anderson M.A., M.D., PH.D. is displayed. The profile includes buttons for "View admin", "Download Contact", "Print", and "Send Message". The profile details are as follows:

Login ID	wanders5
Institution	The Johns Hopkins University
Division	School of Medicine
Department	SOM Neuro Sur Functional
Title	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Campus/Office Address	Meyer 8 181
Affiliation	Faculty
Office Phone	(443) 287-1609
University Email	wanders5@jhmi.edu

Search shows:

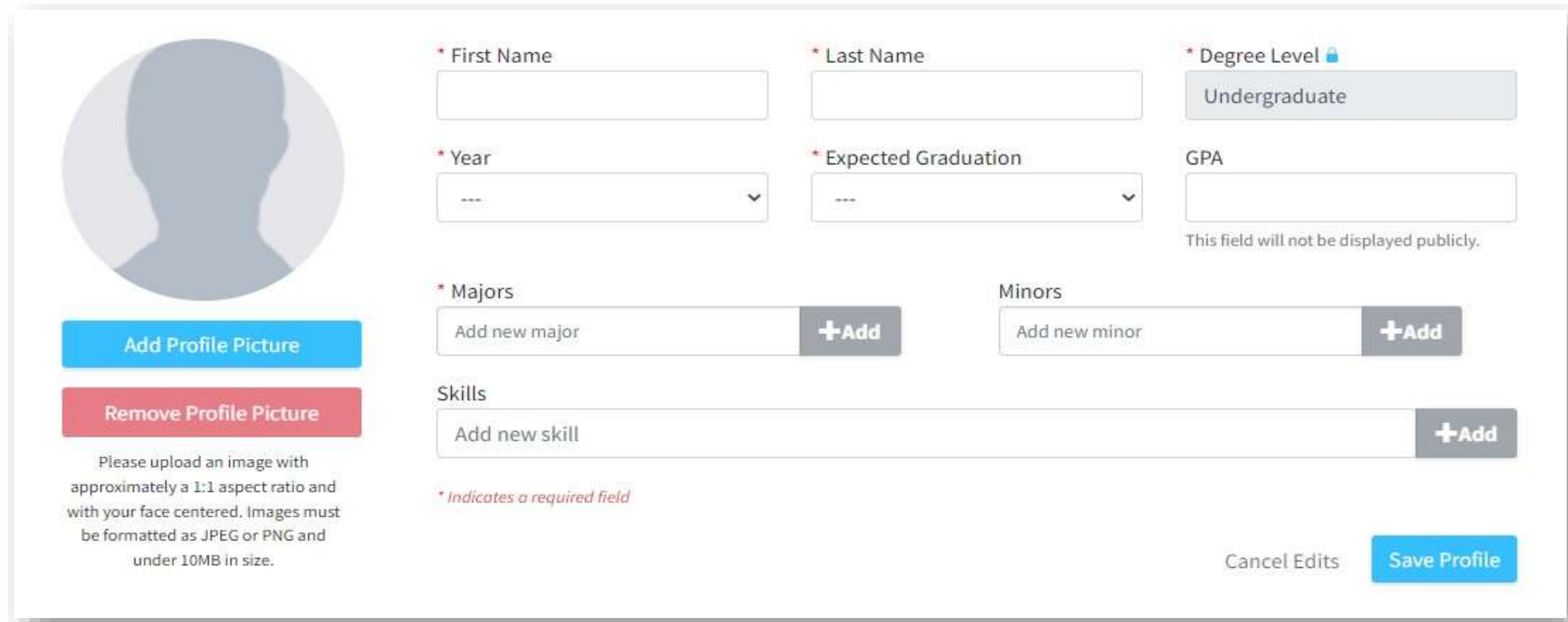
- Email address (the Holy Grail!)
- Primary division/ dept
- Office address

Step 3, cont: Identify researchers

- Sign up at <https://foragerone.com/>
 - Select Johns Hopkins University
- 
- Use your Hopkins ID and password to log in
 - Create your profile
 - (optional) Upload your documents
 - Toggle to 'actively seeking'

Actively Seeking Opportunities?

Activate the toggle to the right to indicate to faculty and other users on ForagerOne that you are looking for opportunities to collaborate on new projects.



The screenshot shows the 'Create Profile' form on the ForagerOne website. It includes a profile picture upload section with 'Add Profile Picture' and 'Remove Profile Picture' buttons. The form fields are: First Name, Last Name, Degree Level (set to Undergraduate), Year (dropdown), Expected Graduation (dropdown), and GPA (text input with a note 'This field will not be displayed publicly.'). There are also sections for adding Majors, Minors, and Skills, each with an 'Add' button. At the bottom right are 'Cancel Edits' and 'Save Profile' buttons. A red arrow points from the 'Sign Up' button in the top navigation to the 'Save Profile' button.

Supplemental Files

Allow supplemental files to be publicly visible?

Use this section to upload files such as resumes, transcripts, and more. Please upload PDFs only.

File Name

Uploaded Date

No Supplemental Files

Add File



Refine By



Division & Department

- ▶ School of Medicine
- ▶ Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
- ▶ Bloomberg School of Public Health
- ▶ Whiting School of Engineering
- ▶ Carey Business School
- ▶ School of Nursing
- ▶ School of Advanced International Studies
- ▶ School of Education
- ▶ Applied Physics Laboratory

User Types

- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Faculty
- Administrative Staff

Recruiting Status



- All Users
- Users actively recruiting ?
- Users with posted projects
- Users with posted remote research projects

Search Keyword(s)



Search

Page 1 of 294 (2936 total faculty results)



Richard Haganir

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and Psychological and Brain Sciences; Director, Department of Neuroscience

Departments: N/A

Research Keywords: *Developmental Neuroscience; Cellular, Molecular Neuroscience*

Actively Recruiting

Bookmark Faculty

Apply Now



Richard Haganir

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and Psychological and Brain Sciences; Director, Department of Neuroscience

Departments: N/A

Research Keywords: *Developmental Neuroscience; Cellular, Molecular Neuroscience*

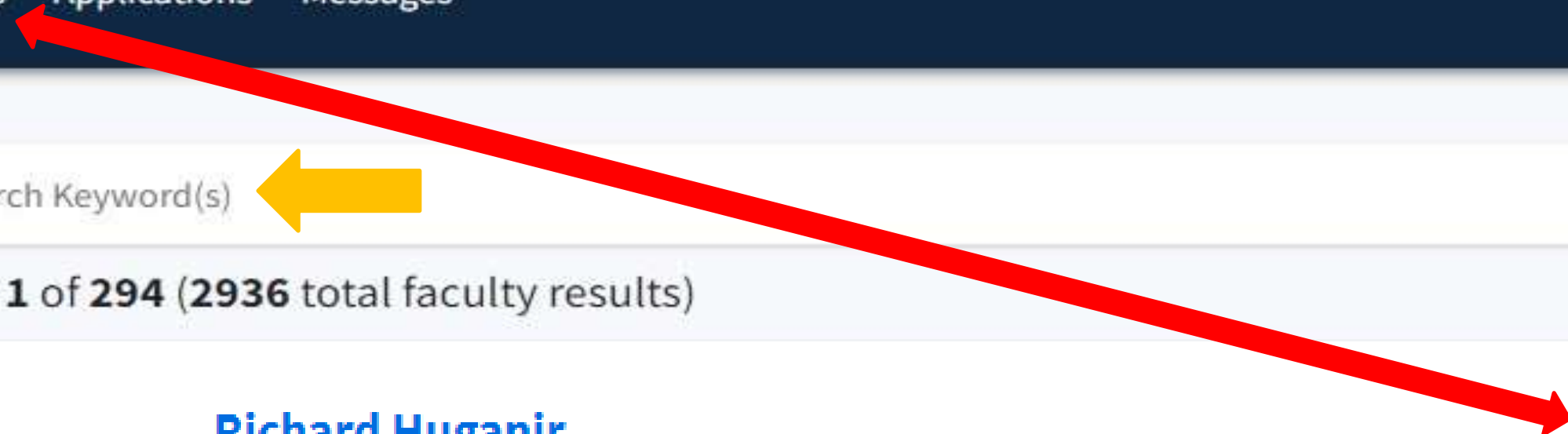
Actively Recruiting

Remove Bookmark

Apply Now

Manuel Hermosilla

Bookmark Faculty



Step 4: Contact and follow-up, Follow-Up, FOLLOW-UP!!



- Always **use your Hopkins email** address. (If contacting through ForagerOne, do all follow-up via email)
- Be prepared to send follow-up emails – BCC yourself or **make a list** of who you contacted to make it easier. **Don't leave opportunities on the table!**
- Keep your message short—**just 3 sentences**, about the size of a cellphone screen!
 - **Sentence 1:** Introduce yourself (name, major, year, career goal if you know).
 - **Sentence 2:** Explain why their work is exciting or aligns with your plans.
 - **Sentence 3:** Request a meeting to discuss opportunities and thank them!
- Do NOT attach your resume or other documents. Save them for when requested.
- **Follow-up** with another email every 3 – 4 business days, repeating 3 – 4 times.
 - **You are not a stalker**; you will not be blocked or reported.
- You may email as many researchers as you can keep track of for follow-up.
- We find that contacting **5-6** researchers using these tips gets you a position!



Step 5: Meeting



- **BE PROFESSIONAL** and polite in ALL interactions. Arrive on time and dressed neat and clean (casual is fine).
- **BE PREPARED** by reviewing their research and/or faculty page, or most recent publications, so you're ready to discuss projects and ask questions. Have any requested documents ready to bring or send in for review. Know what your requirements are and be confident in requesting or defending them.
- **BE AUTHENTIC.** Don't try to be someone you aren't. Your authenticity and enthusiasm will take you further and make a better impression with faculty!
- **THANK THEM** for their time, whether you are offered a position or not. If they do not offer you a position, ask for a referral to a JHU colleague doing similar work.



Seeking funding and programs

<https://hour.jhu.edu/opportunities/>

***The sad truth: At any given time
in fall and spring:***

- 5% of undergraduate researchers are getting paid for their time
- 10-15% are receiving academic credit (considered a form of compensation)
- **80% are entirely uncompensated (volunteers)**

HOOR Programs [\(<https://hour.jhu.edu/opportunities>\)](https://hour.jhu.edu/opportunities)



- Support 'independent' research projects in any field from STEM to Humanities.
- Open to any Hopkins undergrad in good standing.
- Require a research proposal and university mentor.
- Funding (\$3000 for PURA and \$6000 for Summer PURA) is discretionary and can be used for anything from research expenses to personal use.



- BDP faculty provide the project and mentorship for inexperienced undergrads.
- Open to any Hopkins undergrad in good standing.
- Requires a resume and personal statement.
- Funding \$6000 for discretionary use to help offset summer expenses.



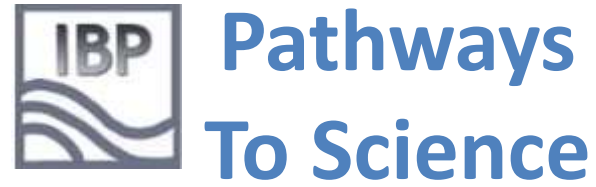
- To take early-stage human/ public health projects to the next level.
- Open to any Hopkins undergrad or UG team in good standing.
- Requires a proposal and budget.
- Funding between \$100 - \$1000 to create a prototype or pilot program.



- Provides portable funding to FLI undergrads seeking typically unfunded co-curricular research experiences; similar to FWS award (up to \$2,500 for one semester/student).
- We hope to demonstrate that this intervention mitigates retention and graduation disparities and enhances the satisfaction of FLI undergraduates at JHU.

Other Helpful Sites

(<https://hour.jhu.edu/opportunities>)



A great resource site for STEM programs.

- Sign up for funding and program info.
- Filterable by level, citizenship, semester and more.
- Search 1000+ fully funded STEM programs.
- Check out webinars and professional development materials.

<https://www.pathwaystoscience.org/>



Search site for humanities or natural sciences internship opportunities.

- Discover local, international, & virtual opportunities.
- Refine your search by individual units or keywords.
- Opportunities vary in length, commitment, and prerequisites.
- Some opportunities offer a stipend.

<https://internships.si.edu/opportunities>



Search site for academic funding, conferences and journals.

- Sign up using your Hopkins ID and password.
- Refine your search by categories or keywords.
- Discover conferences and journals related to your interests.

<https://pivot.proquest.com/dashboard>

NSF Research Experience for Undergrads



Summer STEM-based research programs at institutions across the United States.

- Must be a US citizen or Permanent Resident.
- 750+ programs
- Paid stipend, housing, travel.
- Very competitive (about 8 students per program).

https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp



Opportunities to share

<https://hour.jhu.edu/present/>



Events



DREAMS



- The university's premier celebration showcasing our undergrads' amazing research, scholarly, and creative projects, as well as presentations about internship, community service, fellowship, study abroad and other amazing experiential opportunities.
- Takes place over a week in both the fall and spring semesters.
- Held virtually, so all your friends, family, and mentors can see your projects.
- Offers additional in-person events in the Imagine Center featuring presentations and workshops led by different student groups.



crossroads

- The Crossroads panel discussion series focuses on taking an interdisciplinary approach to a specific research topic or theme.
- A panel of JHU undergrad researchers are invited to share their projects and engage in a discussion.
- The discussions are moderated by faculty, post docs and grad students whose work is associated with the event's theme.
- Events are held in the Imagine Center twice each semester.

Other Presentation Opportunities



- Founded and hosted by Johns Hopkins University.
- Specifically for humanities research and projects.
- Open to undergrads from institutions across the country.
- Takes place in the spring, with free registration for Hopkins undergrads.
- <https://krieger.jhu.edu/macksey-symposium/>



Council on
Undergraduate
Research

- The **National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity in all fields of study.
- Takes place annually in the spring; registration opens October 1.
- The **World Congress on Undergraduate Research (WorldCUR)** brings together the world's best undergraduate researchers to focus on some of the most significant challenges facing the global community.
- <https://www.cur.org/what/events/students/>

Building community

Welcome to the **HOUR**
Undergraduate Research Community
on HOPKINSGROUPS



A space to connect with your peers and receive support for your research journey. Ask questions in the forum, stay up-to-date on opportunities, or check out upcoming events!



- Come hang out at the new **Imagine Center!**
- Run into staff from HOUR, the Life Design Lab (LDL), the Global Education Office (GEO), University Experiential Learning (UEL);
- Meet up with classmates collaborate or study
- Attend workshops and events.

And connect with **HOUR** on social media...



@JHU_HOUR



@JHU_HOUR



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jhu-hour/>

Key Offices, Organizations and Other Resources



<https://hour.jhu.edu/resources/>

Where can I find help?

HOUR (Hopkins Office for Undergraduate Research) (<https://hour.jhu.edu/>)

- Staff are happy to answer ANY questions, or direct you to the people who can.
- Available for 1:1 or daily office hours; virtually or in person (by appointment).

The Imagine Center (<https://imagine.jhu.edu/>)

- Home to: HOUR, the Life Design Lab, the Global Education Office, University Experiential Learning, Hopkins Connect, Integrative Learning and Life Design, and more.
- Open (with J-card) daily 8am-8pm (extended Fall hours coming soon).

URSCA (Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity) (<https://krieger.jhu.edu/ursca/>)

- Available to Krieger students (based on your enrollment, major or minor).
- Assists students with creating, planning, and undertaking hands-on research projects.

Sheridan Libraries (<https://www.library.jhu.edu/>)

- Take advantage of the Reference Librarians – they can help find sources, identify researchers, and more!
- The Eisenhower Library is NOT the only library across the university.

CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research) (<https://www.cur.org/engage/undergraduate/>)

- Engage with all the resources from internship and research opportunities; paper and presentation opportunities; student journals; undergraduate research stories; and a student resource center.

**So, what questions do
students come to HOURS
with most frequently?**

<https://hour.jhu.edu/getstarted/>



How to contact HOUR:

Weekday Office Hours:

- Monday-Friday, 3-4pm Eastern
- Year round
- Any weekday JHU is open
- Link on our web page, hour.jhu.edu

Email us!

- hour@jhu.edu is read by all staff
- Or, if you prefer, tracysmith@jhu.edu
- Or, buffalin@jhu.edu
- All are on our web page, hour.jhu.edu

Schedule a one-to-one appointment with HOUR staff:

- Tracy Smith, Director & Deborah Buffalin, Program Manger
- Any time on either of our calendars!
- Year round
- Link on the 'About Us: Meet the Staff' page at hour.jhu.edu

Join us on CampusGroups (HopkinsGroups):

- Hopkins Undergraduate Research Community
- https://jhu.campusgroups.com/HOUR/club_signup
- HOUR is the largest undergraduate group on HopkinsGroups
- Events, useful files and a peer-to-peer forum

And connect with HOUR on social media...



@JHU_HOUR



@JHU_HOUR



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jhu-hour/>

What we hoped you'd learn from this presentation:

- The **history, scope and current climate** for undergraduate involvement in research at JHU.
- **What 'research' entails for undergrads at JHU**, including examples of different research journeys for JHU undergraduates.
- How essential it is to explore **your own expectations** for your research journey at Hopkins **before** seeking opportunities.
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