



---

## Department of Physics & Astronomy

### Reference Letter Request for REU Program

\_\_\_\_\_, who is applying to the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Physics & Astronomy at Louisiana State University, requests a letter of reference from you. The application deadline is February 1, 2021; we ask that letters be received by this date.

We ask that you submit a written letter of recommendation, preferably on your institution's letterhead. A substantial part of our evaluation will be based on your written letter. Please use the letter to describe the student's qualifications for participating in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program. Items of particular interest include:

- work ethic and maturity;
- motivation and aptitude for physics research and/or career;
- particular strengths or weaknesses;
- ability to flourish in group or semi-independent situations; and
- how well you know the applicant.

Additional comments, such as whether you would select this student to work in your research group or providing a relative ranking of applicant among his/her peers, are welcome.

As part of REU program participation, the student will present a poster at our annual Summer Undergraduate Research Forum. We hope that students will have an opportunity to give an additional poster presentation or department seminar at his/her home institution during the academic year following the REU program.

Please send your reference letter directly to the REU Program. E-mail submission is preferred.

By email:      [reuapps@phys.lsu.edu](mailto:reuapps@phys.lsu.edu)

By mail:        REU Program Director  
Louisiana State University  
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4001

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Reference letters will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act. Students are asked on their application if they waive the right to review reference letters, and are instructed to notify you if they do not waive this right. Only the REU program director, department faculty assisting with applicant evaluations, and the REU student's faculty mentor will view the reference letters.

Thank you for your support of undergraduate research.  
Rob Hynes & Rongying Jin, REU Program Co-Directors

*This instruction page need not be returned with your reference letter; it is informational only.*