The mission of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) is to develop, support and celebrate faculty mentored student research with the overall aim of enhancing the undergraduate education experience and preparing students for careers in all areas. CURF provides centralized resources, programs, and support for undergraduate students to engage in faculty mentored research projects and provides services for highly motivated students interested in fellowships and post-baccalaureate study.

CURF has been operating under the umbrella of Office of Research and Sponsored Programs since fall 2017. CURF programs are designed to create a research pathway for students that builds involvement throughout their academic career. CURF’s research network encourages scholarly engagements and collaborations and supports students as they navigate their undergraduate journey.

**Services:**

- CURF helps to develop partnerships between Kean faculty and students through the Freshman Research Initiative and the Research Recruits program
- CURF advises undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing National Fellowships
- CURF celebrates student-faculty research through University Research Days every April

The new home of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships will be located on the third floor of the Learning Commons. CURF will invite guest speakers and host research and scholarly events. The center will also offer poster design workshops, oral presentation workshops, mentoring opportunities and a platform to collaborate and generate innovative research ideas. CURF will serve to make a difference in Kean University student experience.

“Research” isn’t limited to science. It includes writing, artistry, and design. Research is any inquiry or investigation that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline (from the Council on Undergraduate Research).

**CURF Operations Managed by:**

Reenat Munshi, Assistant Director of ORSP
Email: curf@kean.edu
The Freshman Research Initiative (FRI) is a 6-week research or creative experience working with a Kean faculty mentor. Participation in the FRI provides first-year students access to both faculty mentors and experienced student mentors and starts them on a pathway to future research opportunities. Students do not need prior research experience to enter the program.

The goal of FRI is to engage first-year students in a faculty-mentored project. These projects are introductory and limited in scope but they do include essential features of effective undergraduate research such as reading the literature, encouraging student design of an aspect of the project, and presenting results. FRI introduces freshmen to skills and techniques needed to conduct independent research or creative work.

FRI students will receive a monetary stipend for conducting research in a faculty mentored project for 6 weeks.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- A first-year freshman (completed less than 30 credits)
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Able to spend up to 4 hours per week on the project committed to participate in the program for 6 weeks (fall or spring)

**MEET OUR RESEARCH AMBASSADORS OF THE 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Research Ambassadors are experienced student researchers who encourage and support students to get involved in research and creative work. Many of our CURF research students join us back as Research Ambassadors to help mentor and guide new researchers.

The ambassadors lead activities including: talking to T2K classes, General Education classes, student organization groups and coordinating research symposiums and scholarly events. They are also responsible for conducting research tours of science labs, the CAVE, the Maker Space, architecture labs and K labs.

Faculty interested in having a Research Ambassador speak to their class may contact us at curf@kean.edu
Research Recruits Program

The Research Recruits program is a two-semester undergraduate research or creative experience with a Kean faculty member. This program provides an opportunity to learn about research at the discovery and inquiry level by joining a student-faculty research team. Interested sophomores and first-semester transfer students are especially encouraged to apply.

Research Recruits are matched with CURF Peer Advisers (PAs) who are upper-level undergraduate students with significant research experience. PAs serve as guides for the Research Recruits and liaisons with the faculty research mentors.

All majors are encouraged to apply!

Research Recruits will receive a monetary stipend for conducting research in a faculty mentored project for two semesters.

Eligibility Requirements:
› A Sophomore or a first semester transfer student
› Minimum GPA of 3.0
› Two semester commitment
› Able to commit up to 8 to 10 hours of research work per week

Meet Our Research Peer Advisors of the 2019–2020 Academic Year

Peer Advisors play a primary role in the Research Recruits Program and are the first point of contact for incoming student researchers. Peer advisors are upperclassmen with a proven academic record of accomplishment, significant research experience and strong leadership skills. Peer advisors provide the perspective of an experienced student researcher and assist new researchers to find a balance between academics and research work. They share strategies for academic success and provide information about on campus and off-campus educational opportunities. Peer advisors connect the students to campus resources and help them build a strong network.
MEET THE RESEARCH RECRUITS
OF THE 2019 - 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

Alexis Worlds
Communication Studies, Class of 2023
THE LEARNING COMMONS - MARKETING
FOR AWARENESS TO IMPROVE SATISFACTION
AND ACCESS
DR. PAUL CROFT
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
NICOLE SKALENKO
PEER ADVISOR

Christopher Calvache
Biology, Class of 2023
EVALUATING LUNCH BAGS TO DETERMINE
FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES
DR. KIM SCACCAROTELLA
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
MAURIZIA DE PALMA
PEER ADVISOR

Jia Lv
Finance, Class of 2021
USING AI IN BUSINESS
DR. KAI WANG
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
JEREMY GUSSET
PEER ADVISOR

Jose Rodriguez
Computer Science, Class of 2020
A WEB-BASED DECISION TREE TO ENHANCE
THE CAPACITY OF CARE MANAGERS
DR. DAEHAN KWAK
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
SYED NADEEM
PEER ADVISOR

Brianna Paredes
Criminal Justice, Class of 2023
ONLINE HATE SPEECH AND THE
FIRST AMENDMENT
DR. CONTANCE HASET WALKER
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
NICOLE SKALENKO
PEER ADVISOR

Kebira Belmaachi
Sociology, Class of 2023
THE HUDSON YARDS, NEW YORK CITY
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND BIG DATA
DR. JULIA NEVAREZ
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
JEREMY GUSSET
PEER ADVISOR

Gurmukh Bedi
Computer Science, Class of 2020
VIRTUAL HELP DESK USING GOOGLE HOME
AS A VIRTUAL RECEPTIONIST
DR. DAEHAN KWAK
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
SYED NADEEM
PEER ADVISOR

Suzie Yang
Marketing, Class of 2021
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS’ ACCEPTANCE OF
USING INSTANT MESSENGER CHATBOTS
DR. MIN-CHUNG HAN
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
NICOLE SKALENKO
PEER ADVISOR

Omosalewa Akanmu
Business, Class of 2023
RELATIONSHIP OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS: FOCUSED ON HUMAN
SERVICE NONPROFITS IN NEW JERSEY
DR. BOK JEONG
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
JEREMY GUSSET
PEER ADVISOR

Hugo Burgos
Architecture, Class of 2020
MARTIAN CITY
CRAIG KONYK
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
JEREMY GUSSET
PEER ADVISOR

Symone Gelay
Forensic Psychology, Class of 2020
THE EFFECT DIAGNOSTIC LABELING HAS ON
JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN CRIMINAL CASES
DR. RICHARD CONTI
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR
JEREMY GUSSET
PEER ADVISOR
Student Research Pathway
Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

01  
Freshman Recruitment Initiative (FRI)

02  
Research Recruits (Research Program for Sophomores)

03  
SpF, McNair, LSAMP (Research opportunities for Juniors and Seniors)

04  
Preparation for National Fellowships, National Conferences, and serve as Research Peer Advisors and Research Ambassadors (Seniors and Recent Graduates)

Justine Burnett
Environmental Science & Sustainability Science, Class of 2021
LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF HETEROTROPHIC MICRO ALGAL OIL AT A COMMERCIAL SCALE
DR. DONGYAN MU  MAURIZIA DE PALMA
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR  PEER ADVISOR

Katelyn Bryant
Sustainability Science, Class of 2022
DR. ELIZABETH HYDE  NICOLE SKALENKO
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR  PEER ADVISOR

Ulysses Green
Supply Chain Management, Class of 2021
BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE: AN INNOVATION CASE STUDY
DR. SUT SAKCHUTCHAWAN  MAURIZIA DE PALMA
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR  PEER ADVISOR

Anibely Torres
Computer Science, Class of 2021
DETECTING BOUNDARIES OF PARKING LOTS AND DETECTING OCCUPIED SPACES WITHIN LOT USING DEEP LEARNING
DR. JENNY LI  SYED FAHAD NADEEM
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR  PEER ADVISOR

Destiny Moore
Biology, Class of 2021
DROSOPHILA GENETICS: MAPPING OF MPS1 TRANSGENES
DR. ELIZABETH MANHEIM  MAURIZIA DE PALMA
RESEARCH FACULTY MENTOR  PEER ADVISOR

Liam Allen
Computer Science, Class of 2020

Anibely Torres
Computer Science, Class of 2021

Ulysses Green
Supply Chain Management, Class of 2021

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