



**Cornell Undergraduate Research Board (CURB) Peer Mentorship Program
Mentor Application**

Name: Alburuj Rahman Net ID: arr75

Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major: Computational Biology College: CALS

Department of Research: Microbiology

At Least 1 Semester or 1 Summer of Research Experience: Yes No

***Note: You must have at least one semester or one summer of research experience to be eligible to apply to be a CURB Peer Mentor.**

Please answer the following questions below and be reasonable in the length of your responses.

1. Why are you interested in becoming a mentor in the CURB Peer Mentorship Program?

I started research freshman year of high school at Ohio State University, where I am originally from, wrote two papers that were published and presented at quite a few conferences before coming to Cornell. Here, I have been involved doing research for three labs. I worked in two of them over the summer of my freshman year, doing protein crystallography and cellulase engineering research. Last year, I took research for BIOG 4990 credit. This summer, I did a research internship at the University of Michigan working on proteomics. This year, I will continue doing research for credit.

I have experience in how to word emails to professors who I was interested in working with, and I know what information to include, how to set up a meeting, find relevant papers, etc.

Overall, research is something I truly enjoy doing and that's why I have been actively involved with it. I would like to share my experiences, answer questions, and give advice to students interested in getting involved because Cornell is a top-tier research institution and there is so much interesting research happening on campus. I would enjoy being a CURB Peer Mentor and part of your team. I would always put forth my best effort in helping any of students get involved.

2. Do you have past mentoring experience? If so, please describe.

(Note: past mentoring experience is not required to be a CURB Peer Mentor, but is recommended)

Yes, I have mentored students. I did not do this directly through a program in school, just on my own time. I have mentored students preparing for college. I provided help with their applications/essays, advice on classes they could take and how to prepare for them, getting involved with research early, and continuous general encouragement.

3. What ideas do you have for helping your mentees find a research position?

If the students know which professors they are interested in working with, I can help them from there. If not, I can show them how to do searches for research projects in departments they are interested in working with and/or find a list of potential professors. I can show them emails or drafts that I wrote to contact professors I was interested in working with and discuss how to get a meeting with them. Some of these email elements include: strong introductions, a cv or brief background description, and key words/phrases needed to get the professor interested in meet with students. I can show them how to use a Cornell library search, Google Scholar, and other popular sources/databases to find research papers for professors they are interested in. I can also show them my previous research proposals if they would like to start research for credit.

4. What other extracurricular activities are you involved in?

In college, I am mostly involved in research. I have been involved with activities for a cultural club on campus. I was a member on the board of the Cornell Table Tennis Club and enjoy playing with them. After the academic year, when I am not taking classes, I am involved in environmental-related and community service volunteering.

5. How did you hear about the CURB Peer Mentorship Program Mentor Application?

I am on the CURB email list and got the email with the details about the opportunity.



Alburuj Rahman <alburujx@gmail.com>

CURB Peer Mentors Application

CURB Peer Mentorship <curbpeermentorship@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 29, 2013 at 10:30 PM

To: Alburuj Rahman <arr75@cornell.edu>

Congratulations! You have been accepted to serve as a CURB Peer Mentor!!! The application process was very selective this year, but we believe your application reflects your ability to be an effective mentor. We plan to have a meeting with all the mentors and the CURB Peer Mentorship Committee following fall break to discuss program details, handout mentee assignments, and to share ideas for how to mentor in research. Thank you for applying. Please do not hesitate to email us with any questions or concerns you may have. **Keep a lookout for our email in the next week stating when our first meeting will be.**

Best,
Ashley Odai-Afotey '15 and Gi Hye Im '15
CURB Executive Board
Co-Chairs of Peer Mentorship

[Quoted text hidden]

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Gmail

curb mentor

121 of about 197

Compose

Inbox 7,351

Starred

Snoozed

Chats

Sent

Drafts 7

All Mail

Spam 14

Trash

Categories

Meet

Start a meeting

Join a meeting

Hangouts

Alburuj

Make a phone call

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First Mandatory Mentor Spring Orientation Meeting Inbox x

CURB Peer Mentorship <curbpeermentorship@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 5, 2015, 12:17 AM

to Alburuj, Alexander, Brandon, Brian, Bryce, Chimere, Gina, James, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Lillian, Matthew, Samantha, Seul-E, Sydney, Vivek, gi42, pl495, rs9

Be careful with this message

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Hey Mentors!

I hope your semester is off to a good start! As you know we have currently been recruiting new mentors and mentees for the program. Recruitment finishes at the end of this week so we will be pairing many of you with some new mentees.

Our first meeting this semester will be a **mandatory meeting for all mentors** (new and old) this **Sunday, February 8th from 1pm-2pm in GSHG64**. We will go over the new program, mentor responsibilities/expectations, pick first meeting discussion topics, sign-ups, events for the month and have sometime for you guys to get to know each other. There may be snacks so make sure you come! :) Please let me know ASAP if you cannot make it.

Our **first mandatory G-Body meeting** with all mentors and mentees will be **Wednesday, February 11th from 5-6pm** room TBA. These meetings will be much more interactive this semester so it is really important that you come.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Best,
Ashley Odai-Afotey

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CURB Peer Mentorship Program (PMP) Board:
Chairs- Ashley Odai-Afotey and Gi Hye Im
Event Chair- Melanie MacMullan
Board Members- Joy Li, Patrick Loi and Rebecca Shohet

Reply Reply all Forward



Alburuj Rahman <alburujx@gmail.com>

CURB mentees meeting monday

Alburuj Rahman <arr75@cornell.edu>

Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 12:13 PM

To: ivb2@cornell.edu, coe4@cornell.edu, nj99@cornell.edu, vvk3@cornell.edu, mem373@cornell.edu, jls633@cornell.edu

Hello everyone,

I will be your CURB peer mentor. On Thursday, the mentors had their first meeting and we got a list of our mentees. Just to let you know, there will be an official CURB meeting on Monday at 7:30 PM in Malott Hall room 253 so that you can meet the other mentees and mentors and get more information about how the program will work this semester. I hope to see you all there. If you can't make it for some reason, feel free to email me and we can work something out.

I look forward to meeting you all!

- Alburuj Rahman

mail.google.com

Gmail

curb mentor

80 of about 180

Compose

Inbox 7,351

Starred

Snoozed

Chats

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Be careful with this message

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Report spam Report phishing

to Sydney, Brandon, Jennifer, Samantha, Matthew, Brian, Alburuj

Sun, May 3, 2015, 1:18 PM

Hello 2015 Graduating Mentors!

We would like to thank you for your participation as **mentors** in our program. The time that you have volunteered has helped many mentees navigate the vast research opportunities available at Cornell! We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

We would like to begin to catalog what **mentors** do after graduation so if you could please share your post-graduation plans that would be great!

Enjoy your last few days of classes, and graduation. [Thank you again and best of luck!](#)

thank you!

Best,
CURB PMP Board

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CURB Peer Mentorship Program (PMP) Board:
Chairs- Ashley Odai-Afotey and Gi Hye Im
Event Chair- Melanie MacMullan
Board Members- Joy Li, Patrick Loi and Rebecca Shohet



Alburuj Rahman <alburujx@gmail.com>

lots of research stuff

1 message

Alburuj Rahman <arr75@cornell.edu>

Thu, Sep 18, 2014 at 5:12 PM

To: Kara Beckman <kab365@cornell.edu>, Kyla Brathwaite <knb56@cornell.edu>, Haarika Srinath <hs722@cornell.edu>, Sung Hun Choi <sc2228@cornell.edu>, Hao Yan <hy286@cornell.edu>, Alex Blacksmith <akb232@cornell.edu>

Hey mentees,

This is Alburuj, your curb peer mentor.

Right below, I've added a few tips on how you may want to construct emails when you contact professors, all based on how I wrote my emails. Feel free to start contacting professors now, even if you want to start research next semester. You may contact as many professors as you like (it's common to send up to 15-20 emails), and email broadly. Don't get discouraged if a professor doesn't email you back or has no space to take you in right now.

- mention name and year
- maybe say something like "I am interested in starting/exploring research here and am interested in your ___ research."
- can add more info on why their research is interesting to you (finding papers, etc), but if so keep it brief. This may help show your interest, but not always necessary. If you get an appointment or date to "chat" with a prof, you can always ask them for papers they think you should start reading, which is what I do.
- can ask something like "I would really appreciate if you could let me know if you currently have an opening in your lab for this/next semester"
- and if they have space, request to schedule an appointment to meet with them and ask what time works best for them
- "I have attached my cv/resume/a description of my experience below..." (optional) don't worry if you have no previous research experience!
- if you haven't written a resume/cv and you would like to, here is pretty good looking template I found online:
<http://insideinvestmentbanking.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Banking-Resume-Sample-Template-CV1.png>
Mine is similarly formatted but a bit technical and mostly emphasizes my research experience, which might not be very helpful for you all.
- all of these details can go into one email

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To find professors in bio fields doing research, go here:

<http://biology.cornell.edu/search-research>,

Click 'find users' and check specific bio fields (e.g. molecular biology) you're interested in. Generally, the fewer fields you check, the more results you get.

Like I already mentioned, you can also go to the main Biology office on the second floor of Stimson to get packets that contain lots of information about professors and what research they do in specific fields.

For info about taking research for credit:

<http://biology.cornell.edu/oub-research>

* It's recommended to take 2990 first (graded S/U) unless you have previous research experience. 4990 is usually taken when you want to start a more independent research project.

The professor or principal investigator (PI) you end up working with will let you take research for either volunteering, credit, or pay.

Good sources for paper searching:

<http://scholar.google.com/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/>

As always, feel free to email (or text) me if you have any questions, concerns, want any advice, etc. If you'd prefer to meet in person on campus to go over something, let me know and we can decide on a time. And keep me updated as you make progress (CURB suggests every 2 weeks).

Hope this helps,
- Alburuj Rahman