



INSPIRE INQUIRY

Help Students Soar

Across the disciplines, our faculty make scholarly contributions and groundbreaking discoveries that are expanding UVA's research influence worldwide. For our undergraduates, the link between the classroom and UVA's research enterprise is USOAR, the Undergraduate Student Opportunities in Academic Research program. Through USOAR, students engage in research investigations alongside faculty mentors who are renowned experts in their fields.

From the sciences to the humanities and social sciences, USOAR students are engaged in valuable research experiences, for example:

- **Culturing cells**, making polymer nanofiber materials, and using time-lapse video microscopy to deepen our understanding of cell migration
- **Collecting and analyzing media** to determine changes in public concern about ethical issues, particularly at transnational, international and global levels
- **Observing college teaching practices**, administering surveys and collecting and coding data—all with the goal of improving college instruction

First-year, second-year and transfer students participate in paid research opportunities within their area of interest with faculty members—an experience that stimulates young researchers and boosts their academic success. USOAR applicants aren't required or expected to have prior knowledge of research skills and experiences, just the capacity to do good work and some background in their area of interest.

Partners in Knowledge

Through USOAR, faculty and students search together for new solutions and new ways to understand our ever-changing world. UVA faculty find working closely with students toward a common research goal to be very exciting and powerful.

USOAR professors, who often have full teaching loads, take time to mentor and instruct students in research protocols and practice. Although USOAR positions are for one year, many faculty give students the opportunity to continue lab research throughout their undergraduate careers.



Inquiry Inspired

Growing up with a father who was a statistics professor, Sabrina Yen inherited a tendency to think analytically. She found a USOAR research project with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering that is analyzing the environmental and economic impacts at each stage of wine production. Sabrina is conducting a cost-benefit analysis of the choices organic wine producers face when labeling their products. She was paired with Mark White, associate professor of commerce and director of the McIntire Business Institute, whose interests include sustainable commerce. The partnership is thriving, according to Sabrina. “Professor White always makes time for me, no matter how busy he is.”

Support Faculty Excellence

An excellent faculty strengthens the student experience. Close collaboration between students and faculty is one of the distinguishing marks of a University of Virginia education. By investing in faculty, you play a vital role in fulfilling our promise to educate tomorrow’s leaders and advance knowledge. In addition to USOAR, there are many more opportunities to support faculty excellence:

- **Support faculty advisors** who help students navigate decisions through UVA’s Total Advising program
- **Fund emerging research initiatives** to support proof-of-concept projects or promising innovations
- **Support interdisciplinary faculty collaborations** that strengthen expertise in targeted areas
- **Endow a professorship or research fund** to provide a lasting source of academic vitality

Generous gifts to support faculty excellence help UVA recruit and retain outstanding faculty and strengthen the student experience. Please make a gift to sustain UVA’s world-class faculty, who value the balance of teaching, mentoring, scholarship and research that helps maximize the University’s potential as an innovative research institution.

Contact

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