



# Instructions for Application to the 2026 Notre Dame Physics and Astronomy Summer REU Program

Thank you for your interest in the Notre Dame Physics and Astronomy REU program! The electronic application, accessible via the link at the bottom of these instructions, is administered by the University of Notre Dame Graduate School.

- You must be a physics major and a U.S. citizen or legal resident to apply to the program. If you are an international student, you must have funding from another source or your university. International students should email Dr. Umesh Garg ([garg@nd.edu](mailto:garg@nd.edu)) to explain your funding situation and should apply only if Dr. Garg directs you to submit an application.
- You must complete all questions that have an asterisk.

**Follow these directions carefully! We will only be able to view your application if you fill it in as instructed below.**

1. You will be directed to create an account at the application home page. After you do so, click on *Application for Admission* to begin.
2. **Select Summer Research Programs for your application. You will be directed to the instructions page. On the left-hand bar, select *Application Type and Term (Summer Research Programs)*.**
  - a. **For Program Applying to select *Physics REU***
  - b. **For Application Term select *Summer 2026***
  - c. **For Potential Faculty Advisor - You must enter the names of three (3) advisors, in order of preference, from the list of Potential REU Projects – Summer 2026 found at: <https://physics.nd.edu/research/reu-program/potential-reu-projects/>.**
3. Fill in the *Personal Information* section, including all contact information, biographical information, and citizenship information. You may skip the final section, *Additional Personal Information*, if you wish.
4. In the *Academic History* section, enter the colleges or universities you have attended. Select *Add Institution* to enter your current and previous colleges or universities. Transcripts are required. An unofficial copy of your transcript will be accepted and must be uploaded under "*Submit Transcript?*" where it says "*Choose File.*"
5. In the *Additional Information* section, answer only the questions with asterisks (\*). You can list Notre Dame as your preferred school and leave the other school sections blank. Skip the *Language* section.

6. In the *Uploads* section, you will need to upload two documents: 1. A Curriculum Vitae and 2. A Statement of Intent.

The statement can cover some or all of the following:

- Why you are interested in an REU program
- Physics related experience (classes, computer training)
- Future (after graduation) plans
- This is a perfect platform for explaining any low grades or problems with grades
- Where you heard about the Notre Dame REU Program and what appeals to you about our program specifically.
- Your life experiences that have shaped and informed your academic and career choices so far.

These are suggestions. Your statement is your opportunity to provide information about you!

7. In the *Recommendations* section, you must add two recommenders by selecting *Add Recommender*. Fill in the required fields for two people who can comment on your educational and professional goals and potential. Two letters of recommendation are required.
  - a. Tell your recommenders that they will receive an email from the University of Notre Dame Graduate School with a link where they can upload their letter of recommendation.
  - b. The link may also direct them to a list of questions. Please tell your recommenders that answers to those questions are completely optional. We will be quite happy with them just uploading a letter.

If a recommender has trouble uploading a letter, you may direct them to email it to [kamsler@nd.edu](mailto:kamsler@nd.edu) instead. Kristen will attach the letter to your application. Only electronic letters will be accepted.

8. In the *Signature* section, type your full name.
9. In the *Review* section, make sure all required fields, errors, and potential problems are addressed, and you are satisfied with your application.
10. Last step: Select *Submit Application* at the bottom of the *Review* section page. Your application will only get to us if you see the “Submission Complete!” screen. You will get a confirmation email. Make sure it says you applied to the Summer 2026 Physics REU.

**Ready to apply?**

Click <https://gradconnect.nd.edu/apply/>