“Dedicated to increasing student awareness, understanding, and knowledge of academic and scientific research at Duke.”

Duke is known as a research university. On campus, there are hundreds of laboratories involved in scientific research within fields such as molecular biology, genomics, neuroscience, biomedical engineering, and much more. Many labs are also closely affiliated with the Duke Medical Center. Research is also conducted in the humanities and social sciences.

However, research at Duke isn’t confined within the campus boundaries. The university has a number of research facilities stationed around the world. Local research facilities include the Duke Lemur Center adjacent to West Campus and the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC. Research is also being conducted across the globe at places such as tropical field biology bases in the jungles of Costa Rica and conservation research stations in the South African savannah.

...But the best part? All of these research opportunities are open to Duke students!

A number of opportunities are available for Duke undergraduates interested in getting involved in research. These include but are not limited to:

- Howard Hughes Medical Institute-sponsored summer research programs
- Research programs sponsored by the Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy
- Tropical biology and global health study abroad programs sponsored by the Organization for Tropical Studies
- Semester-long independent study research courses funded by the Undergraduate Research Support Office
- Pratt School of Engineering Pratt Fellows program
- Mechanisms of Behavior Summer Neuroscience Research Program
- Rachael Carson Scholars Program sponsored by the Duke Marine Lab
- Duke Deans’ Summer Research Fellowship for students conducting independent summer research
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships for minority students interested in pursuing careers in science

Contact: dursociety@gmail.com
The Duke Undergraduate Research Society (DURS) is a student-run organization founded in the spring of 2010. DURS was created in order to fulfill the need for a comprehensive organization devoted to fostering student interest and participation in research.

We hope to establish a student-friendly group focused on delivering high-quality and engaging events and opportunities for undergraduates currently involved in research and others looking to get started. Major DURS events and activities planned for the near future include:

- Research orientations and “how to” sessions for underclassmen, particularly freshmen, looking to join labs and acquire projects
- Regular dinners and seminars with top researchers at Duke in order to facilitate student-faculty interaction in the context of research
- Student presentations and poster sessions, providing students an opportunity to discuss their findings with fellow researchers and also practice their presentation skills

Q: So what makes DURS unique? Isn’t it similar to a departmental majors’ union?

A: DURS is unique in that it is fully interdisciplinary. DURS is focused on research conducted within all of the departments at Duke, from the natural sciences to the humanities, including biology, chemistry, neuroscience and physics, as well as economics, history, political science, and public policy. DURS also promotes research in Pratt and at the Duke Medical and Graduate Schools.

Q: What kind of students are you looking for?

A: Any student with an interest in academic and scientific research is welcome. We encourage both pre-grad and pre-professional school students to be active in DURS.

Q: How can I become an official member?

A: DURS is open to all undergraduates at Duke. All you need to do to become an official member is attend two DURS meetings in a sequence of four continuously.

DURS is just one of many resources available to students looking to get started in research at Duke. Please look for our group on Facebook, or contact us via email at dursociety@gmail.com. Other valuable resources include:

- The Undergraduate Research Support Office:
  http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/

  The Undergraduate Research Support Office lists opportunities for and supplies financial assistance to Duke students involved in research.

- Biology Department Independent Study Database:
  http://undergrad.biology.duke.edu/study

  DURS has been working with the Biology department to compile current and past independent study research projects. Check here if you want an idea of what research projects Duke students are involved in.