4 steps to Exploring Research at Cornell

Step 1: Reflect: What am I looking for?
- Why do I want to get involved?
- What am I interested in learning about?
- Do I have the time and energy to commit 6+ hours each week?

Step 2: Seeking Out Opportunities
- Explore research on campus using the OUB faculty research and Einaudi Int scholars databases, and individual department web pages (links on back). When searching, keep it broad. Don't focus on a single topic or department.
- Join the CURB listserv: www.curb.cornell.edu/about/join
- The early bird gets the worm! (sometimes) Reach out to professors the semester before or at the beginning of the semester you'd like to start. However, positions can open at anytime.
- Reach out to faculty advisors and professors. You never know who could be helpful in your search!

Step 3: Contact Potential Research Mentors
- Before reaching out, read the researcher's website and the abstract of at least one paper.
- Start with a professional salutation (Dear Dr. X,) and introduction. Include your name, class year, major, and concentration. State precisely why you're contacting them. You want to make it clear that you are interested in their work! Generic emails don't get a lot of attention.
- Explain why you are a good fit for their lab. Describe your experiences (both research and non research) and attach your CV/resume and unofficial transcripts to the email.
- End with a question. Ask to chat about getting involved in their field or to discuss their research. Your goal is to get them to meet with you to discuss opportunities!
- Keep it brief: 1 to 2 short paragraphs, max!

Step 4: Meet with Potential Research Mentors
Congrats on getting responses! Now it's time to prepare for the meeting.
- Make sure you can articulate why you're interested in their work and in research in general. Practice saying it out loud.
- Prepare a list of questions. These can be about research or the lab structure. Only ask questions you're sincerely curious about!
- Be prepared to talk about time commitment. Bring your schedule!
- It's not solely about getting into a lab but rather, finding one that fits. Meet with as many mentors as you can.
Useful Links:

**OUB Faculty Research Database:**
https://biology.cornell.edu/research/opportunities/

**Mario Einaudi Faculty Database:**
http://einaudi.cornell.edu/faculty-database

**Cornell Undergraduate Research Board (CURB):**
http://curb.cornell.eu/about/join.html

**Scholars@Cornell Database:**
https://scholars.cornell.edu/