JOIN A RESEARCH GROUP

Find your research interests!

Talk to other students, TFs, LAs, and professors about their research. You might be interested in what they are working on, or they could recommend other research groups for you!

You should also look online at different research groups' websites. Look at their current work and past publications to see if their research areas are a good match with your interests.

Contact PIs

Once you find some labs you want to potentially join, email the PIs of those groups. The PI (Principle Investigator) is the head of the research group you want to join. At BU, they are your professors.

Generally, the more specific you can be about why you want to join, the better. This shows the PI that you are genuinely interested in their research, and it also helps them pair you with a project. It's also a good idea to attach your resume to show your previous experience.

Follow Up

If you don't hear back from the PIs you contact, send a follow-up email! PIs have busy schedules, and they may not have seen your email or may have been too busy to respond to you.

By sending a follow-up email, you are also showing them that you are still interested in joining their group.

However, if you don't hear back from them after following-up, you should look for other PIs to contact.

Set Up a Meeting

If a PI wants to meet with you and discuss you joining their group, congratulations!

When you meet with them, the PI will most likely discuss potential projects for you to work on, and/or potential graduate students that you could work with.

Don't be afraid to ask the PI about their expectations for undergraduates in their lab. For example, how much time per week do they expect undergraduates to commit to?

Evaluate and decide

If you are deciding between multiple labs or even a single research group, you need to make sure that you want to work in the lab you ultimately choose.

Some things to think about:
- Are you able to fulfill the time commitment of the lab?
- Are you interested in the project you would be working on?
- If you are working with a graduate student, do you think they would be a good mentor for you?
- Is the size of the lab a good fit for you?

BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR RESEARCH ENDEAVORS!