



Loyola Marymount
University

Office of Research and Creative Arts

Research. Discover. Achieve.

*Supporting student success through assistance for faculty-mentored research
and creative projects.*

The ORCA Mission



The [Office of Research and Creative Arts \(ORCA\)](#) believes that research and creative work is integral to the development of the student, both as a budding scholar and as an individual, and that engaging in student research is a transformational experience that is highly beneficial to students, faculty and the greater university community. We focus on the use of research and creative work as an opportunity for high-impact, active learning that provides both disciplinary and life tools, allowing students one-on-one experience with faculty mentors in their disciplines as well as real-life experience with critical thinking, intellectual independence, problem solving and creative solutions.

[ORCA](#) is committed to inclusive excellence, and strives to increase engagement from LMU's entire student body, including first generation college students and students from underrepresented groups. The goal of ORCA is to provide opportunities for all LMU students to raise the quality and profile of their work and to disseminate their research and creative results within and beyond LMU.



PROGRAMS

IURP

Independent Undergraduate
Research Program

RLC

Research Learning
Community

URS

Undergraduate Research
Symposium

SURP

Summer Undergraduate
Research Program

RAINS RESEACH

Rains Research
Assistant Program

BENEFITS

ORCA supports students involved in faculty-mentored research and creative works by:

+ Providing programs throughout the academic year and summer for students to participate in faculty-mentored research and creative projects while receiving educational and financial support;

+ Facilitating research learning communities throughout the academic year to introduce undergraduates from all disciplines to research fundamentals;

+ Hosting academic workshops and presentations to strengthen research skills as well as prepare students for post-baccalaureate success;

+ Providing administrative support and resources for student research and creative works at LMU and beyond;

+ Providing a professional opportunity for undergraduates to present their research findings and creative works to a larger audience through the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium;

+ Creating a community of student researchers and creative artists and scholars through academic and social events for students involved in ORCA programs.



IURP

Independent Undergraduate Research Program



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IURP

Independent Undergraduate Research Program

Encourages students to explore and undertake independent research and creative projects during the academic year by providing an academic alternative to federal work-study positions.

IURP provides funding through work-study or academic credit to undergraduate students completing independent research projects under faculty mentorship. In addition, IURP offers administrative support, guidance and a community of undergraduate research and creative artists and scholars.

Beginning Fall 2019, IURP replaced the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).



RLC

Research Learning Community



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RLC

Research Learning Community

Introduces students to effective search strategies and research writing techniques through an eight-week learning community. Students meet once a week for two hours to discuss that session's topic. Dates and times are determined based on student availability and students are compensated for time spent in the classroom and on coursework. Homework is minimal and interdisciplinary collaboration is emphasized.



SOFIA ACOSTA '22 / JOURNALISM & BIOLOGY

"The RLC program has enabled me to expand my education outside the classroom in a more personalized and focused setting. Everything I learn in the program translates to my classes and research in the lab, furthering my knowledgeability and solidifying key concepts I didn't understand from my previous studies. It makes me a more competitive student, prepared to enter the world of higher education research."



Student branding designs from previous Undergraduate Research Symposiums





CARLOS MESA BARON '19 / INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

"The URS provided me with a platform that informed audiences the importance of an innovative and efficient public transportation system in an urban setting. It allowed my work on Medellín, Colombia's public transportation system to leave a deep sense of curiosity on people who consulted my research."

PATRICIA LYNCH '19 / ENGLISH

"As an English major, I am a big believer in the idea that writing lives in the discussion it ignites. Being able to share my research and my writing with members of the LMU community outside of the English department at the Undergraduate Research Symposium not only made me feel more confident in my work but also reminded me how powerful the written word can be."

URS

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Provides a professional opportunity for undergraduates to present their research findings and creative work to a larger audience. URS is a campus-wide annual event that showcases the creative and critical accomplishments of student/faculty research partnerships.

The symposium includes an arts showcase, poster sessions, and oral presentations by students from all academic disciplines.

Annual Symposium branding is proudly designed by a pair of students selected from the College of Communication & Fine Arts, Studio Arts program. The creative process, in this case identity development and design, also involves a research component.



Summer Undergraduate Research Program



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SURP **Summer Undergraduate** **Research Program**

Enhances undergraduate education by providing administrative and financial support, academic workshops and on-campus housing opportunities for students wishing to engage in faculty-guided research and creative project opportunities during the summer.

SURP is a six-week program designed to provide students with insight into the research process. Further, it provides students an academic alternative to nonacademic summer employment. SURP participants are involved in an intellectual community of learners in which leadership, critical inquiry, and communication (written and oral) skills are emphasized.



NICKOLAS ABBOTT '20 / HISTORY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

"SURP was my first formal research experience outside of a classroom setting, one that taught me just as much about the process of conducting research as it did new material. Being able to take advantage of workshops and professorial guidance helped me mature as a student and apply those skills to my academics and personal works in time since."

ANDREI PINEDA '20 / CIVIL ENGINEERING

SURP gave me the opportunity to hone my skills in project management, time management, and especially working in a team. It provided me with a very hands on and work-like experience that I'm sure mirrored any research opportunities I may come across in my professional career. It is valuable experience and should be considered by all who are looking to add something unique and impressive to their resume."



Rains Research Assistant Program

AMIN BAGHERI '19 / PHILOSOPHY

“Assisting my professor in conducting his research allowed me to observe his methodology, and to broaden my horizons of thought, as well as connected me to the others in the sub-field.”

CALVIN FOSS '21 / PHYSICS

“I assisted in biophysics research with the first professor in biophysics ever hired at LMU, Zahra Alavi. Dr. Alavi has taught me the difficulty and incredible value of the discipline of biophysics. Additionally, we will continue to work together on research so she can complete the research she is required to complete while I learn the intricacies of professional level research.”

HILARY RUCKER '21 / PSYCHOLOGY & WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES

“The Rains Research Assistant Program allowed me to use the research methods and tools I had learned in my classes and apply that knowledge to research studies I was passionate about. This program also gave me the opportunity to travel to Portland, Oregon to present at a prestigious national conference for the first time.”

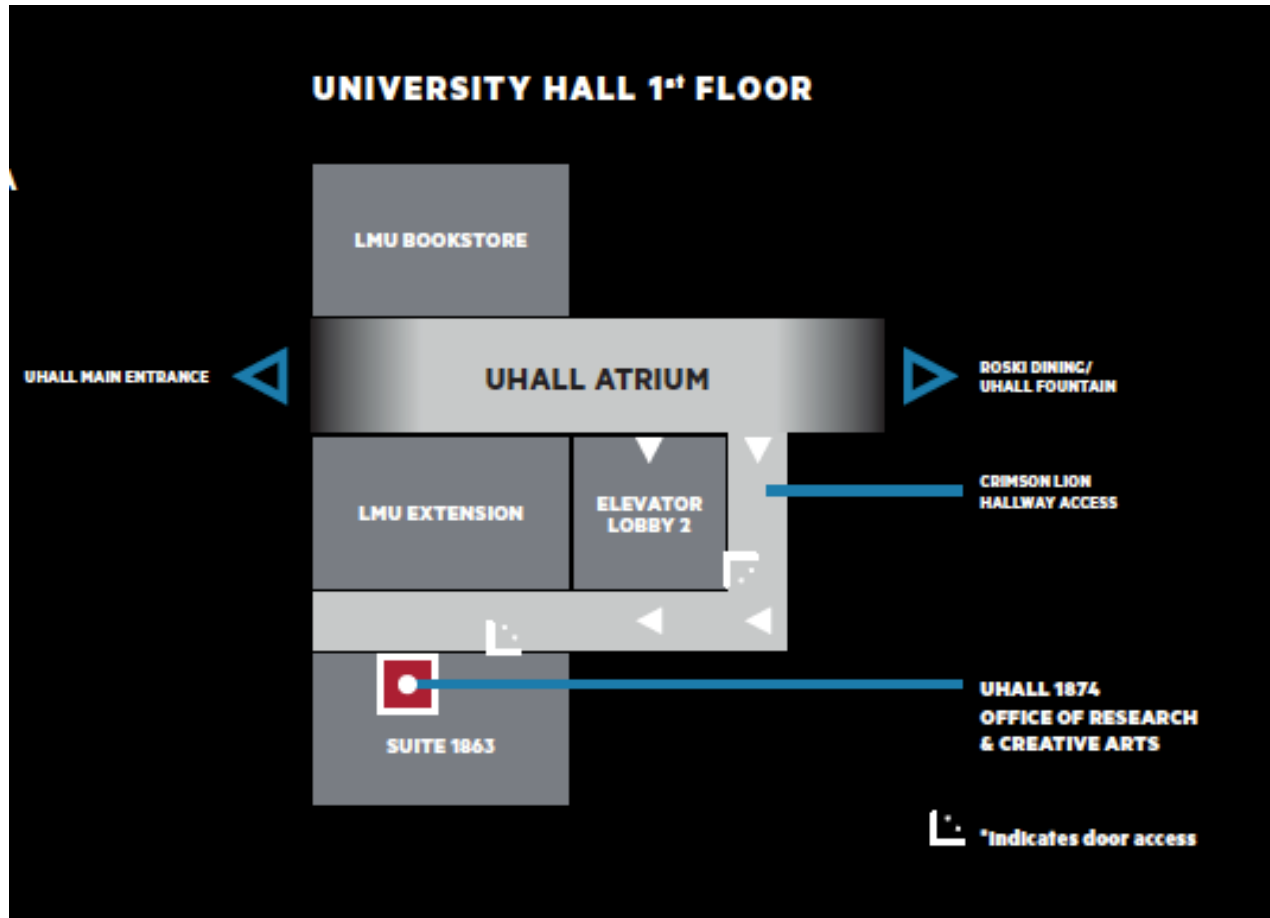
Rains **Rains Research** **Assistant Program**

Supports faculty research by providing financial support for faculty to hire a student research assistant. In addition, the program allows students to develop research experiences and close collaborations with their faculty and other members of their research group.

This program is available to all full-time tenured & tenure-track faculty. Faculty members on a leave of absence are not eligible.



Where's **ORCA**?



Map of the first floor of University Hall and ORCA's location



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Looking for more information?

- **Visit the ORCA website at www.lmu.edu/orca**
- **Find us on Instagram at [@lmu_ORCA](https://www.instagram.com/lmu_ORCA)**
- **And you can always email ORCA at student.research@lmu.edu with more questions!**



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