Joining a Lab

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How to find a lab / lab position?

**Important Questions:**

Why do you want to join a lab?
- Acquire techniques/skills
- Interested in specific research
- Work under certain faculty

What are your interests?

**Resources:**

- Handshake (ASU Career resource)
- iSearch
- Professors
- Graduate students / TAs
- Current lab members
Put in the work beforehand

Find out as much information as you can about the lab

- Lab website (Links in iSearch)
- Recently published papers (iSearch, Google Scholar)
Breakdown of an email

**Important components:**

- Who are you?
- Why are you interested in this lab? (Be specific)
- Are there any open positions?
- What do you hope to gain out of working at the lab?
- Resume
- Cover Letter (optional)
- List of References (optional)
Interview Tips

Come prepared

- General idea of lab research
- Practice common interview questions
- Prepare questions

Be honest & know what’s on your resume

Interviewing goes both ways

Questions to Ask:

- What will be my role in the lab?
- What are your expectations of me? (Hours, flexibility)
- Is there room for growth?
- What will be the most difficult aspect of this position?
Meet the Lab

Get to know as many people as you can

- Research is often collaborative
- Get a feel for the lab dynamics
- Other undergraduates in the lab are a great resource

Communication

- Primary form of communication (email, text, written, oral)
- How well do you understand someone & vice versa (explaining material/procedure)

What are your values/goals? (independence, techniques, projects)

Be honest about what you do and don’t know. You are there to learn.
How to be successful once you join a lab

Take good notes:
- Write EVERYTHING down (names, procedures, locations)
- Especially in lab meetings

Ask lots of questions!
- You are expected to have a lot of questions, you’re new to this
- Shows that you want to learn and allows them to gauge your understanding
- It’s better to ask than to make mistakes

You are going to make mistakes. Be honest and learn from them.