

4/15/2020

Dear UCR Community,

In light of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on our research programs, we'd like to update you with the current state of planning for our [summer RISE program](#). At this time, we have decided to restructure RISE 2020 as an 8-week program and to delay the start to August 3. The program would end September 25, just before the start of fall quarter instruction on October 1. Despite the modified schedule, UCR undergraduates will still receive valuable research and professional development experience that the RISE program is best known for: workshops, peer mentoring, faculty engagement, the research symposium, and more. The goal is to continue in providing a quality, high impact experience for our students.

Depending on how our community is able to recover from the pandemic, we are hopeful that the research and professional development programming will be in-person/on campus. By delaying the start of the program, we increase the likelihood of hosting RISE physically at UCR. Nevertheless, it does remain possible that all programming and undergraduate research will need to remain remote - even in August.

Using the Riverside County Public Health Officer and Governor Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home orders as our guideposts, by May 15 we expect to make a final decision on how we move forward with RISE this summer. We understand that it may not be feasible to conduct some research projects in remote conditions, and would have to prioritize those that could be virtual. But whether RISE is held on campus or remotely, I am confident that students and faculty will have an enriching research experience.

I appreciate your patience in this time of uncertainty. Stay well!

Sincerely,

Connie Nugent  
Divisional Dean of Student Academic Affairs  
College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences  
Associate Professor Molecular, Cell & Systems Biology  
Director CNAS Science Ambassadors  
University of California Riverside  
[connie.nugent@ucr.edu](mailto:connie.nugent@ucr.edu)  
[studentdeancnas@ucr.edu](mailto:studentdeancnas@ucr.edu)