



Professional Research Experience Program

PREP RESEARCHER CATEGORIES

Following are the categories of researchers that can be appointed by the PREP Universities:

- Undergraduates
- Post-Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Students
- Master's Degree Holders
- Postdocs
- Research faculty

“One of the decisive factors that led me here over other postdoctoral and private industry options was this ability to author future topics of my research more directly. The aspect of the program I find most enjoyable is the resulting flexibility to travel my own path in studying the proposed work, in addition to other research endeavors that I’ve found insightful along the way.”

—Timothy Magnanelli, Ph.D., PML



www.nist.gov

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NIST
National Institute of
Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

NIST MISSION

To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Created by NIST Boulder in 1991, the Professional Research Experience Program (PREP) is designed to provide valuable laboratory experience and financial assistance to undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. The program is intended to assure continued growth and progress of a highly skilled science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) workforce in the United States.

PREP is a 5-year cooperative agreement between NIST laboratories and participating PREP Universities to establish a collaborative research relationship between NIST and U.S. institutions of higher education in the following disciplines including (but may not be limited to) biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, electronics, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron science, physical science, physics, and statistics.

PREP RESEARCHER APPOINTMENTS

PREP is a competitive program and driven by demand of the NIST laboratories. Generally, the request starts with NIST having an opportunity and funding for a researcher. NIST partners with the PREP Universities to advertise and recruit for the appointments.

PREP researchers are required to be affiliated with a participating university. PREP appointments occur by the following mechanisms:

- Recruitment by a participating university for a NIST opportunity
- Proposal of a research opportunity which aligns with the NIST mission and skillset to a NIST scientist directly.



“I wanted an opportunity to have the freedom of academia but with the resources and practical impact of industry. It’s been a very special time in my career that’s helped posture me for several next-step opportunities.”

—Joseph Angelo, Ph.D., PML

PARTICIPATING NIST LABORATORIES AND USER FACILITIES

PREP researchers contribute to on-going research in the NIST laboratories at PREP Boulder (operating on the Boulder, Colorado site) or PREP Gaithersburg (operating at the Gaithersburg, Maryland and Charleston, South Carolina sites). You are encouraged to visit the laboratory’s webpages to learn about the multi-disciplinary nature of the NIST laboratories and laboratory facilities. (www.nist.gov)

- Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL)
- Engineering Laboratory (EL)
- Information Technology Laboratory (ITL)
- Material Measurement Laboratory (MML)
- Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML)
- Center for Neutron Research (NCNR)
- Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST)