

Yoo Jin Jung

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Science

Major(s): Neuroscience & Behavior

Minors(s): Catholic Social Tradition

Scholar Group Membership: No

Did you received other funding for this project?: No

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: UCLA Summer Research

Project Location: UCLA, Glanzman Lab

ND Faculty Mentor: Michelle Whaley

Project Type: Research

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD)

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Yes

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Yes

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Not Applicable

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]: Yes

Tell us about your experience.

The projects that I worked on in the lab allowed me to apply the neuroscience knowledge I'd learned in my neuroscience classes to research. They gave me a deeper understanding of the material I had seen in powerpoints and textbooks, and have encouraged me study the memory and learning aspects of neuroscience in more depth. They have made me a more independent researcher, and have given me the confidence to share my research ideas with my peers.

The mentors in my lab have taught me a lot about what it's like to be doing research one really loves. Because of their enthusiasm in doing research, I've become even more excited to conduct research I am interested in after graduate school.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

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Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

I was able to do research in an area I am interested in going into post-graduation: learning and memory. I am hoping to go into Alzheimer's Disease research, studying the cellular/molecular mechanisms of memory loss in particular. This opportunity provided me with my first experience studying neurons responsible for long term memory formation, and has motivated me to keep pursuing my dreams of contributing to the quest to cure Alzheimer's.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

Just make sure there is clear communication between you and the principal investigator you will be working with. Usually, professors want the best for their students and want to put them on projects that they are genuinely interested in, and will help them grow the most. So, don't be afraid to ask about all of the options available to you, ask questions, and make a decision on what YOU want to do.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.

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