

Edwina the Research Fairy answers YOUR questions about getting started in research as an undergraduate.



*Can you find a research position for me?*

*Where's your list of available research positions?*

*Edwina, can you fund my research?*

**Gentle and fair students:** would that I could simply wave my wand to procure the perfect research position of your dreams. If only I had on hand a long list of available research positions, and wise mentors awaiting your call, ready to help you win a Rhodes Fellowship, get into medical school, and prepare the foundation for a lifetime of financial security.

But I CAN grant you with the power to find the perfect

research position for yourself.

How, you may ask? Click your heels together three times, while whispering "Meliora! Meliora! Meliora!" Then, you must follow these simple steps:

Identify your areas of interest. What do you want to study? (Hint: if your answer is "I have no idea," this may not be the ideal time to begin a research project.

Find out where the opportunities are. Which professors are working in areas of interest to you. Read through the biographies and CVs listed on department websites. Don't forget to look at the departments at the Medical Center if you are interested in this area.

Create a solid resume. Don't rely on your fairy godmother for this; go straight to the Career Center.

Contact the professors with whom you would like to work, and whether they might be willing to take you on as a research assistant. Enclose your resume, and keep your communication professional.

Be persistent. If a professor says no, ask if she or he has a colleague who might be able to help you.

Edwina wishes that she could grant you straight As, a swinging social life, and a big pot of money to fund your research. Unfortunately, these feats are beyond her skills. However, Edwina would be delighted to refer you to both the Fellowships Program and the Career Center, where you can explore a range of competitive fellowships and summer internships.