

Geoffrey Nielsen

Student Research Reflection

A Summer of Research

The summer research project that I worked on was, overall, a highly rewarding experience. I am interested in pursuing lab research as a career and so this experience was educational, as well as enjoyable.

I am particularly interested in the field of neuroscience and the modern state of neuroscientific research. Thus, this project was especially related to my interests and gave me a unique opportunity to get a small taste about what modern neuroscience research involves. It was great to be able to work with nervous tissue and be able to discuss and learn about nervous systems from a slightly non-traditional perspective (insects instead of humans).

I also was lucky to work closely with Professor Sue Hannaford. As one of the few neurobiologists in the University of Puget Sound Biology Department, it was great to learn from an expert in the field that most interests me. Her knowledge was an invaluable resource and I learned a great deal from her about, not just neuroscience, but also general lab techniques and practices that will be extremely valuable when applying to different labs in hopes of finding a position.

Overall the experience I had with summer research was very positive. I enjoyed the social atmosphere around the science building, with all the different students and professors working on different projects. I also enjoyed the intimate work with my specific project and being lucky enough to thoroughly explore a subject that is extremely interesting to me.