

## Student Research Opportunity

### Become a Reach Alliance Researcher

- Are you curious about how development interventions can reach those who are the most in need?
- Do you want to be a part of the solution to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that “no one is left behind”?
- Does the idea of conducting world-class research in a global, interdisciplinary setting get you excited?

If you answered ‘yes’ to these questions, you should consider applying for our 2020-21 Reach cohort.

Led by principal investigator Joseph Wong, and a team of dedicated faculty mentors, our student researchers investigate how “to get [important stuff] to everyone, everywhere.” Broadly, research focuses on financial inclusion, health, technology and infrastructure. Case studies have examined such topics as: how to reach refugees with a biometric cash assistance program in Jordan; how to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Thailand; how to get affordable solar panels to nomadic herders in Mongolia; and how to optimize food processing, operation and distribution in Mexico.

The research process involves case selection, desk research, research design and ethics, research methods, stakeholder interviews, field research. Reach researchers have conducted field research all over the world, including in Africa, Latin America, Oceania, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, as well as in Canada.

You can learn more about the Reach Alliance through the links below:

- [Reach Alliance website.](#)
- [TEDxUofT: Getting ‘Stuff’ to People](#)
- [U of T News Story – Reach Alliance Scale Up](#)

### Who can apply?

All current undergraduate and graduate students from across U of T can apply (**must be enrolled during 2020-21 academic year to be eligible**). Past Reach researchers have been recruited from a variety of academic backgrounds, such as: engineering, business, law, global affairs & public policy, public health, medicine, social sciences, and more. We recruit a diverse mix of researchers who have demonstrated potential for character driven leadership. The research process and outcomes are evolving.



[munkschool.utoronto.ca](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca)

**At Trinity College**  
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Canada M5S 3K7  
T: 416.946.8900 F: 416.946.8915

**At the Observatory**  
315 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON  
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T: 416.946.8929 F: 416.946.8877

**At the Canadiana Gallery**  
14 Queen's Park Crescent West  
Toronto, ON  
Canada M5S 3K9  
T: 416.978.5120 F: 416.978.5079

## An ideal candidate will have the following qualities:

- **Dedicated:** invested in the mission and vision of the Reach Alliance.
- **Adaptable:** able to adjust to the dynamic nature and needs of development research and intervention.
- **Accountable:** ownership of individual roles and responsibilities.
- **Team-player:** understands the priorities of team performance, and acts accordingly.
- **Effective communicator:** clearly articulating ideas and thoughts to project stakeholders.
- **Detail-oriented:** ability to interpret and analyze information in-depth.
- **Self-starter:** ability to proactively initiate necessary actions, processes and contingencies.
- **"Hustler":** get out there and get it done.

## Application process

Your application must include the following **four** documents:

1. **Resume (2-page max):** Outline your accomplishments, skills and abilities to date.
2. **Responses to the following four short answer questions (2-page max):**
  - a. *Describe the most significant research experience that you have had to date.* What role did you have in the project? What strategies did you use to work with co-researchers?
  - b. *Describe a time you challenged yourself by going outside your comfort zone.* What was the risk? What was the outcome?
  - c. *Describe a leadership role where you were responsible for organizing a group of people to achieve a common goal or task.* How did you establish a goal (describe the steps)? What were the results? What challenges did you face within your group, and how did you resolve them?
  - d. *Describe a time when you took the initiative to address an unmet need in a professional or academic setting.* Why did the unmet need move you to action? What did you do? What was the impact?
3. **Unofficial transcript:** Provide a copy of your unofficial transcript.
4. **Annotated transcript (1-page max):** Select five courses from your transcript that best reflect who you are as a student and explain why. Please also include the course title and grade that you received in each of the 5 courses. You can discuss the courses individually or collectively.

Please note, your resume, responses to the short answer questions, and the annotated transcript should all be submitted in **Times New Roman size 12**.

Submit all four documents as **one single file** (either PDF or word document). Ensure each part of your application is provided in the order listed above (with resume first, and annotated transcript last).

Send your application to [reachproject.munkschool@utoronto.ca](mailto:reachproject.munkschool@utoronto.ca). When submitting your application, please use the subject-line: REACH APP – [Your name]. **Applications are due by Friday, 1 May 2020 at 11:59pm EST.** Applicants are encouraged to apply before the deadline because we will be conducting a **rolling assessment** of applications. Late applications will not be accepted.

## Interview process

You will be contacted if you are selected for an interview. Interviews will be conducted remotely via Zoom.

## FAQs

### How will COVID-19 affect my participation in the 2020-21 Reach cohort?

Reach researchers spend the first eight months working locally (i.e. no international travel), as they undergo the pitching sessions and conduct desk research required for the case studies. The Reach Alliance will arrange for these meetings to happen virtually until further notice. The Reach Alliance observes and follows all [guidance from the University](#), including an [FAQ on COVID-19](#) that is updated regularly. All Reach Alliance meetings, such as researcher interviews, will be conducted virtually over Zoom or via phone until further notice.

### Who can apply to be a Reach Researcher?

Current undergraduate and graduate students from across U of T (must be enrolled during the 2020-21 academic year to be eligible) can apply. Past Reach researchers have been recruited from a variety of academic backgrounds, such as: engineering, business, law, global affairs & public policy, public health, medicine, humanities and more.

### As a Reach researcher, what am I expected to do?

You will work with a team to conduct secondary, data-driven research on development initiatives that have done well at reaching marginalized, underserved communities. You will then spend 1-2 weeks in the field, conducting in-depth interviews with stakeholders. After your field research trip, you will work with your team to produce a case report, highlighting key insights uncovered during the secondary and field research.

### What country will I go to for my fieldwork?

Where your fieldwork takes place will depend on which case study team you are placed on. To date, Reach researchers have travelled to Brazil, Thailand, Rwanda, India, Jordan, Mongolia, Palestine, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

### Do I have to pay for costs associated to my fieldwork?

No. The Reach Alliance pays for your travel costs, including flights, accommodation, vaccinations\* and visas. We also provide a per diem to cover expenses that occur on the ground.

*\* Students are expected to have health insurance, travel insurance, and a valid passport. The Reach Alliance will cover the difference between the actual vaccination cost and the amount covered by your health insurance.*

### Will I be paid for my work with the Reach Alliance and/or receive academic credit?

This is an unpaid research position. Please also note that we do not provide academic credit.

**How much time do I have to commit?**

During the academic year, you will meet with your case study team on a bi-weekly basis at minimum. These meetings typically take place during business hours or in the evenings, but meetings can also take place in the morning and occasionally on weekends. You will also be expected to attend a series of workshops and seminars, hosted during the workday, in the evenings, and occasionally on weekends. The workload will increase as we approach fieldwork and have to coordinate with participants, develop a schedule, develop and refine our interview instruments, and sort out logistics. This busy time period will overlap with your final exams and assignments in the winter term, so researchers will need to possess excellent time management skills.

Fieldwork is expected to take place during April or May 2021, so researchers have to be willing to travel during those months. Fieldwork typically lasts 1-2 weeks.

After the fieldwork, student researchers work with their team to complete the case study report. The case study report will be written over the summer of 2021. The report will be finalized in fall 2021.

**I will be on exchange for a semester. Am I still eligible to apply?**

Due to the demanding workload, and the requirement for ongoing communication among teammates, we unfortunately can't accept researchers who will be on exchange.

**Will my research be published in an academic journal?**

Reach Alliance case studies are not intended for publication in academic journals. Your team will prepare a written report that is made available online for free. Reach researchers can collaborate to produce a manuscript for a journal after their case study report is completed. However, the development of a manuscript for an academic journal is not a component of the Reach Alliance program.

**Do you have other questions?**

Please contact us at [reachproject.munkschool@utoronto.ca](mailto:reachproject.munkschool@utoronto.ca).