



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina



**NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates
in Quantum Information Science
Summer 2026, Columbia, SC USA**

Dr. Stephen Fenner, PI; Drs. Peng Fu and Homayoun Valafar, coPIs

Dates: May 27 – July 28, 2026

Application window: January 1 – March 31, 2026

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- junior or rising sophomore majoring in a STEM field
- GPA of 3.0 or higher

Preference will be given to applicants who major in computer science, computer engineering, mathematics, or physics and have good communication skills. Minorities and applicants from primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs) are especially encouraged to apply.

Abstract:

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of South Carolina is launching a new Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site: “Quantum Computing Workforce Development in the New Era of Computing.”

Led by Dr. Stephen Fenner with co-principal investigators Dr. Homayoun Valafar and Dr. Peng Fu, this interdisciplinary program brings together faculty from Computer Science and Mathematics to prepare the next generation of quantum innovators.

In partnership with SC Quantum and the Boyd Innovation Center, the REU will offer undergraduate students from across the nation a nine-week, fully funded summer research experience focused on cutting-edge topics such as:

- ❖ Quantum software testing
- ❖ AI-driven quantum compiler optimization
- ❖ Quantum machine learning

Participants will engage in hands-on research, one-on-one mentorship, and professional development activities designed to build both technical expertise and career readiness.

Participants will receive a stipend and financing for travel.

Questions? Contact Dr. Fenner (<https://cse.sc.edu/~fenner>, fenner@cse.sc.edu)

Join us this summer to explore the frontiers of quantum computing, contribute to groundbreaking research, and become part of the growing national quantum workforce.