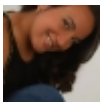
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Living and Learning on the Island of Enchantment [1]

Submitted by Adriana A Bodlak [2] on 30 June 2016 - 6:53pm

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This summer I've had the opportunity to conduct research at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus with the Soft Matter Research Experience for Undergraduates program. I came into this program wanting a more immersive research experience where my work would be more "hands on," and I'm happy to report that it has been. I've learned many new techniques and gained an appreciation for the extensive possibilities within microbiology. I never thought I'd be so excited about bacteria!

As a Puerto Rican raised in the mainland US, living here these past few weeks has really reconnected me to my roots. I've noticed my accent and confidence when speaking in Spanish improve as I interact with the other students in the lab and my REU peers. Having the weekends to travel and explore the island more than I ever have in the past has been amazing as well. I'm looking forward to what the rest of the summer has in store!

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