

Undergraduate Research Initiative: Awards for Scholarly, Creative and Artistic Projects

To: University Faculty and Students

From: Karen Markin, Director of Research Development
Richard McIntyre, Director of the Honors Program

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the Office of the Provost are providing grant support for undergraduate research and for creative or artistic projects. This is a new joint initiative that underscores the importance that the Vice President for Research and the Provost place on providing such opportunities to undergraduate students.

Proposals for these grants will be evaluated by the Undergraduate Research Initiative Committee, which is composed of faculty and students from various disciplines. Students chosen for support will receive a grant of up to \$800 to help support his or her project. All undergraduate students in good standing are eligible. This includes both full time and part time students. One of the goals is to distribute the awards to students with quality projects representing a wide variety of departments and the full range of diversity within the University.

The program provides funds to undergraduates to participate in original research or creative or artistic projects of their own design. These projects require supervision by a faculty sponsor.

To apply for a grant, a student (or group of up to three students) must complete a proposal form and submit the proposal along with a letter of support from a faculty sponsor. For any project involving human or animal subjects, the proposal must state whether or not Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval is critical to the aspect of the project for which funding is sought, and provide evidence that approval is being sought where relevant. Any group focused on a single project is eligible for individual project level funding, i.e., \$800, plus \$200 for each additional student in the group, up to three students.

The grants have certain limitations: (1) a student can receive only one award in an academic year; (2) funds may be used only to support projects which include original student research, creative or artistic endeavors; (3) where necessary, IRB or IACUC approval must be obtained by April 1, 2010; and (4) upon completion of the project the student must submit a final report to the faculty sponsor and the Director of Research Development. Grantees are requested to cite this support in any publicity that may result from their project.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. November 25, 2009 to be considered for an award. Applicants will be notified in mid-December of the status of their applications. Questions should be directed to Karen Markin at 874-5971 or Richard McIntyre at 874-4126.

Application Guidelines

1. Grants will be awarded only to original scholarly, creative or artistic projects. A group of up to three students may participate in a project. An individual undergraduate may receive only one grant in an academic year. The primary criteria upon which the grants will be awarded include: originality, independence, initiative, clarity and feasibility of the proposal.
2. Proposals must include a letter of support from a faculty mentor. This letter should include a statement explaining what role the faculty member will play in supervising the project, how it will be assessed, and in what ways the project constitutes the student's original work. Since the student is required to copy this letter and include it in the proposal packet, we request that faculty do not write a confidential letter of support.
3. As required by University regulations, research with human participants must be approved by the IRB and those with animal subjects must be approved by the IACUC. Doreen Lawson, Director of Compliance, may be contacted for assistance (4-4328/dlawson@uri.edu). In addition, any proposal for which IRB or IACUC approval is required must indicate the requirement in the proposal as well as whether or not such approval is integral to the aspect of the project for which funding is sought. IRB/IACUC approval need not be in place prior to applying for a grant. If selected, proof of approval is required upon receipt of funds. The burden of proof for IRB/IACUC approval lies with the applicant(s) and the determination of the selection committee will be final.
4. Eligible expenses for this research program include purchasing equipment and materials, books, photocopying, postage, and unusual transportation costs. Travel to conferences will be considered if the student is making a presentation. Meals and accommodations are ineligible expenses. Any equipment purchased with an award will revert to the department of the sponsor at the conclusion of the project. Photocopying should be estimated at the Campus Copy rate.
5. The budget must be reasonable and not exceed \$800 for an individual student, \$1,000 for a two-person team and \$1,200 for a three-person team. It is expected that funds requested for equipment and supplies will be for items that are not normally available for undergraduate research in your department. The Undergraduate Research Initiative Committee may reduce or delete budget items, as it deems appropriate. Budget figures must be totaled.
6. Upon completion of the project, students will be required to submit a brief final report. Faculty will be required to review the student's final report and add a brief evaluation of the project. This requirement mirrors the process used by major granting organizations. It both allows you to summarize your findings and the granting committee to provide you with feedback. If you do not complete a final report, you could be responsible for refunding the full amount of the award.
7. The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on November 25, 2009. The student will submit 8 stapled packets (1 original and 7 copies) assembled in the following order: proposal form, the proposal, budget, and the faculty sponsor's letter of support to the Division of Research and Economic Development at 70 Lower College Road (first floor). Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by the end of the fall final exam period. The decision of the Undergraduate Research Initiative Committee is final.

Application to the Undergraduate Research Initiative: Awards for Scholarly, Creative and Artistic Projects

Title of Project

Name

Date

Year of Graduation

Degree sought

Major

Local Address

Home Address

Email address

Telephone Numbers

Project dates: Begin

Complete

Faculty Sponsor Name

Faculty Sponsor Department

If this work is part of a course, specify Course:

Credits:

If it is not part of a course please specify how the completion of this project will directly benefit you:

If you are resubmitting a proposal, please note the changes you have made.

Does this project involve human or animal subjects? Yes ___ No ___

(Check with your faculty advisor if you are unsure.)

On a single separate page, provide supporting documentation concerning your preparation to do the proposed research. This can include a list of relevant courses or experiences, term papers, publications, grades, etc.

Following the outline suggested below, on separate pages, briefly (no more than three (3) pages) describe the project for which you are seeking support. Avoid jargon. The review panel is inter-disciplinary; write with the assumption that members have no expertise in your subject area.

- a) Background (provide brief introductory information about the subject area)
- b) Aims, objectives, or rationale of the project
- c) Results achieved or progress made to date by you if you have done work in this previously
- d) Procedures to be followed (this is important information-be specific and thorough)
- e) Aspects of the project that are your original ideas
- f) Value of the project to you, (e.g., how does this work fit into your ultimate scholastic or career goals)

Attach a budget page explaining how the award will be used to support your project (see #5 and #6 under Guidelines for Students). Do not request funding for miscellaneous supplies. Budget figures must be totaled. Use the attached form.

Submit 8 stapled packets (1 original and 7 copies) assembled in the following order: proposal form, statement of preparation, proposal, budget, and faculty sponsor's letter of support to the Undergraduate Research Initiative committee, c/o Division of Research and Economic Development, 70 Lower College Road (first floor), no later than 4 p.m. November 25, 2009.