

College of Health Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship

Fellowship Description:

- The CHS Summer Research Fellowship is a funding opportunity meant to be a cooperative venture between an undergraduate student and their faculty mentor. Unlike many mentored research projects in which the student is assigned to study a portion of the mentor's existing research, the Summer Research Fellowships (\$2,500) are intended to support a student's own research and creativity, with the faculty sponsor acting as the student's guide and mentor. This fellowship provides undergraduates with the chance to perform intensive and self-directed research under the supervision of their faculty mentor. The student must work with their faculty mentor to develop and refine their research project/idea so that it can be ideally performed during the time frame of the summer session (preferred, but not required). It is fully expected that the faculty mentor will help the student develop and refine their proposed research idea and advise them on methods and so forth. The proposal and application though must be written solely by the student. The proposal must show evidence that the student was directly involved in creating and planning the proposed research with their faculty mentor. The student's majority role in this endeavor forms a unique aspect of the UK Summer Research Fellowship. (Note: *The number of available fellowships will vary from year to year and are subject to change depending on funding levels provided by the Office of the Vice-President for Research.*)

Eligibility:

- Any full-time CHS undergraduate student who is currently completing research with a faculty mentor.
- The student must have an identified faculty mentor who has agreed to sponsor them and work as their mentor during the duration of the summer session.
- Lastly, the student must be a rising sophomore, junior, or senior during the summer session the fellowship is awarded for.

Award Use:

- Fellowship funds may be used by the student as needed to support the student's summer research endeavors including:
 - a student living stipend,
 - travel and registration to a meeting for the student to present their work,
 - travel expenses needed as part of the student's research,
 - supplies directly needed by the student's work (a limit of 10% of total award can be spent on supplies.)

Time Commitment:

- Student awardees are expected to devote at least six to eight weeks of full-time work (approximately 25-30 hours/week) on the project with their faculty mentor. The specific summer project timeline for completion of the proposed project will be established by the student and their faculty mentor together.

Post-Project Requirement:

- Acceptance of the award indicates that the student awardee will commit to writing a final report describing the final design of the study, any outcomes, and a reflective description of the student's experiences during their summer of research work.
- A final report will be required by each awardee by the last day of the summer session. The final report will describe the student's research experience and accomplishments on the proposed research during the summertime. The final report must consist of the following sections:
 - Background section – Use the same or similar version of text used in the initial proposal.
 - Actual methods used to complete the research project.
 - Outcomes and/or results of the work.
 - Description of your experience during the summer with your mentor and your research project, including a brief reflection on development of skills, knowledge, understanding of research because of the experience.

Judging Criteria:

- Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Writing mechanics
 - Clarity of the project's goals, rationale, and methods.
 - Is the proposal well-written, well-developed, and scholarly in quality?
 - Is there evidence that the project idea was developed in strong part by the student?
 - Does the project have a good likelihood of making a scholarly contribution to the proposed discipline and/or to the student's academic growth?
 - Are all required elements included on the application.
 - Strength of the faculty letter of support.

General Application Instructions:

- Prior to beginning your application, discuss this fellowship opportunity with your faculty mentor and obtain their willingness and approval to (1) operate as your sponsor during the summer, and (2) to help you develop and refine your research idea for this proposal.
- Please give your faculty mentor the instruction page at the end of this application to help them complete their letter of recommendation.
- Once you have done this, work directly with your faculty mentor to develop a research project idea that fits with your personal interests. The project you develop with your mentor should ideally be able to be performed during the time frame of the summer session.
- It is fully expected that your mentor will help you refine your idea and advise you on the methods and so forth. As indicated above, the fellowship is intended to be a cooperative activity between you and your mentor, with the student taking the majority role.
- The 750-word research proposal in Section C must be written solely by you and must show evidence that the project had significant input from you as well.
- Complete all three major sections of the application form. Fill-in the requested information as completely as possible.

Letter of Support Instructions for CHS Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship

Student Instruction:

- Please give this page to your faculty sponsor immediately so they can prepare their part of the application.

Faculty Instructions:

- The CHS Summer Research Fellowship is a funding opportunity meant to be a cooperative venture between an undergraduate student and their faculty mentor. Unlike many mentored research projects in which the student is assigned to study a portion of the mentor's existing research, the Summer Research Fellowships are intended to support a student's own research and creativity, with the faculty sponsor acting as the student's guide and mentor. The student must work with their faculty mentor to develop their research project/idea so that it can be performed during the time frame of the summer session. It is fully expected that the faculty mentor will help the student develop and refine their proposed research idea and advise them on methods and so forth. The proposal and application though must be written solely by the student. The proposal must show evidence that the student was directly involved in creating and planning the proposed research with their faculty mentor. The student's majority role in this endeavor forms a unique aspect of the UK Summer Research Fellowship. This fellowship provides undergraduates with the chance to perform intensive and self-interested research under the supervision of their faculty mentor.
- The faculty letter must address the following questions:
 - What is your level of support and enthusiasm for the student and the developed project?
 - Does the project have a good likelihood of making a scholarly contribution to the proposed discipline and/or to the student's academic growth?
 - Is the project, as outlined in the proposal, achievable during the course of the summer session?
 - What will be your role be or how will you contribute to support the student's work?
 - Describe the role and the degree to which the student contributed to the development of the proposed research idea and design.
- In addition, please provide the following logistical information:
 - Is the faculty sponsor currently funded: (Indicate Yes or No).
 - If yes, please provide grant # and funding agency.
 - Is the faculty providing any matching funds to the student: (Indicate Yes or No).
 - If yes, approximately how much funding are you providing for their project.
- ***The faculty letter must be emailed directly to the CHS Director of Undergraduate Research by the due date specified on the fellowship website (richard.andreatta@uky.edu).***