

Research and Sponsored Programs

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program

FY10

Purpose

The objective of the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program is to provide intensive research experiences for undergraduate students in all disciplines whether disciplinary, cross-disciplinary, or educational in focus. Undergraduate Research Fellows will engage in meaningful, substantive research projects, working closely with faculty mentors. This program promotes a long-standing value of the research mission at Illinois State University, which places a premium on active collaboration among faculty and students in a variety of scholarly and creative endeavors. Scholarship, research, and creative expression provide valuable and, often, life-changing educational experiences for undergraduate students. Opportunities for substantive research experiences are also an effective mechanism for recruiting and retaining talented undergraduates, and are indispensable in preparing students for graduate programs.

Award Funds

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will make available a limited number of Undergraduate Research Fellowships during the summer and academic year to talented, highly motivated undergraduate scholars. The fellowships, valued at \$3,500 each, will allow students to devote the time required to conduct their research projects while providing sufficient income to meet their continuing educational expenses. Ten fellowships, five in the summer and five in the academic year, will be awarded. Undergraduate Research Fellows selected for the summer period will be expected to devote themselves full-time (approximately 40 hours per week) to their research project for a 10-week period. Undergraduate Research Fellows whose fellowships are awarded for the academic year will be expected to devote 10 hours per week to their research project over both the fall and spring semesters.

Application

Applications for an Undergraduate Research Fellowship must be submitted by *prospective faculty advisors* according to the following guidelines. Each application for an Undergraduate Research Fellowship will include a completed cover page (attached) and a short research proposal (*limited to 3 pages*). The proposal must include the following elements: 1) background and objectives of the proposed research project, 2) methodology, 3) the form and nature of each fellow's involvement in the research project, 4) the experience of the faculty mentor in involving undergraduates in research, and 5) the process and criteria for selecting the fellow.

Applications requesting an Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the **summer** must be submitted to Research & Sponsored Programs office (HOV 310) no later than 4:00 p.m. on **April 20, 2009**. Applications requesting a fellowship for the **academic year** must be submitted to Research & Sponsored Programs office (HOV 310) no later than 4:00 p.m. on **August 1, 2009**. (All cover pages will be date- and time-stamped upon receipt in RSP.)

All faculty members supervising undergraduate research are invited to apply regardless of employment status (tenure or tenure-stream, NTT, emeriti).

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the quality of the research proposal, the involvement of the research fellow in the research project, the experience of the faculty mentor in involving undergraduates in research, and the academic qualifications of the fellow.

Obligations

Faculty mentors must submit a report on the project no later than one year after the award period, **August 16, 2010**, in the case of summer fellowships and **May 15, 2011**, in the case of academic-year fellowships. Submission of the report is required to maintain eligibility for this and other programs sponsored by RSP.