

Undergraduate Research Grants in the Department of Biological Sciences

Eligibility:

Any undergraduate student with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher who is currently performing or planning to perform research with a faculty mentor in the Department of Biological Sciences may submit a research grant proposal.

Awards:

Research grants at up to \$1,500 each to be utilized by May, 2015.

Application:

- Letter of support from a faculty member indicating willingness to mentor the undergraduate student in a research laboratory. (This letter should also address the extent to which the student has participated in the writing of the research proposal.)
- Written proposal (8 page maximum for single space, font size of 12; fewer pages are acceptable) containing: Hypothesis; Introduction & rationale for project; Methods & scientific approach; Expected results; Anticipated difficulties & their possible resolution; Bibliography; and Budget (\$1,500 maximum). Appropriate expenditures include but are not restricted to: research supplies & services, salary, travel expenses, costs associated with attendance at a scientific conference, final poster presentation costs (see below), etc. (The faculty mentor may *assist* the student in preparing the written proposal.)
- To be considered for the Pohl Award (optional), please include on a separate page a description of your service to others. This should include, if applicable, both on-campus and off-campus service.
- To conserve paper, all materials to be submitted need to be electronic with a preference for pdf format over word documents.

Deadline:

The electronic written proposal and mentor's letter of support (can be submitted separately) are due in the Biological Sciences office by 4:00 pm on 26 March 2014. Electronic applications should be submitted to kristia@uidaho.edu.

Evaluation criteria:

Evaluations will be based on student effort in proposal preparation (evaluated based on mentor's letter of recommendation), the likelihood that the grant will be of benefit to student as well as to the identified UI faculty mentor, originality of the proposal, and the likelihood of scientific success. Based on these criteria, the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee will recommend proposals to be funded to the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. James Nagler.

Notification and activation of successful proposals:

Dr. Nagler will notify writers of proposals of the outcome of their grant reviews by the end of April 2014. Successful grants can be activated as early as May, 2014 and the funds may be used over the following 12 months. Any remaining funds not used during that period will be returned to the Department of Biological Sciences.

Final summary:

No later than 12 months after activation of research funds (that is, by the end of the appropriate spring semester), a 3' X 4' poster will be due. This poster should summarize the rationale, methods, results and conclusions from the study. Undergraduate Research Award recipients will participate in the departmental Undergraduate Research Symposium held each spring. The poster will be on display during the symposium and then later in the Life Sciences Building.

For more information: Contact any faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences.