Undergraduate Research Grants in the Department of Biological Sciences

Eligibility:
Any University of Idaho 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. Current UI students who will graduate with a B.S. or B.A. prior to August 2019 are ineligible for funding.

Awards:
Research grants at up to $1,500 each to be utilized by May, 2020. Outstanding proposals may receive more than $1,500.

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 (6 page maximum for single space, font size of 12; fewer pages are acceptable)
  - Hypothesis; Introduction & rationale for project
  - Methods & scientific approach; Expected results; Anticipated difficulties & their possible resolution
  - Bibliography (references cited in the proposal)
  - 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. If the student is submitting grant proposals to other funding sources (e.g. UI Office of Undergraduate Research), please justify in the budget why more than one source of funding is warranted.
    - The faculty mentor may assist the student in preparing the written proposal.
- To be considered for the Pohl Award ($2,000 maximum), please include on a separate page a description of your service to others that should include, if applicable, both on-campus and off-campus service. This award is made in memory of Karen Pohl, a former undergraduate researcher who was also active in the service to others.
- To conserve paper, all materials must be submitted electronically in pdf format. Submissions should be submitted to UGABioSci@uidaho.edu.

Deadline:
The electronic written proposal (pdf) and mentor's letter of support (and Pohl consideration letter, if applicable) are to be submitted to UGABioSci@uidaho.edu and are due by the end of Friday, March 29, 2019.

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 applicants of the outcome of their grant reviews in April 2019. Successful grants can be activated as early as May, 2019; the funds may be used through April, 2020. 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 either the university-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium held each spring or the College of Science Research Symposium held each fall. The poster will later be on display in the Life Sciences Building.

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