

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 2022* are ineligible for funding.

Awards:

Awarded research grants (up to \$2,000) need to be utilized before May 01, 2023. Outstanding proposals may receive more than \$2,000.

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.)
- The written proposal (6-page maximum for single space, 12 pt font size; fewer pages are acceptable) should include the following sections:
 - Cover Page that includes project title, applicant name and mentor name. The Cover Page does not count in the 6 page maximum.
 - Introduction/Background and Rationale for the project.
 - Hypothesis and/or Goals with one or more Specific Aims.
 - Methodology: this is a description of key scientific approach(es) to achieve the Specific Aim(s). This would include brief descriptions of key methods and specialized equipment. For each Approach described, include expected results along with anticipated difficulties and their possible resolution.
 - Bibliography (references cited in the proposal).
 - Budget; itemized list (\$2,000 maximum) and relevant justification. 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 similar proposals to other funding sources (*e.g.* UI Office of Undergraduate Research), please justify in the budget why additional funding is warranted.
- The faculty mentor may *assist* the student in preparing the written proposal.
- To be considered for the Pohl Award (\$2,500 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. A reference letter from someone who is familiar with your service activities is optional but can be useful to the application reviewers. This award is made in memory of Karen Pohl, a former undergraduate researcher who was also active in the service to others.

Deadline:

Proposals must be submitted electronically in pdf format. The electronic written proposal (pdf) and mentor's letter of support (and Pohl consideration letter, if applicable) are to be submitted to the Undergraduate Affairs Committee (ugabiosci@uidaho.edu) by the end of the day **Wednesday, April 13, 2022**.

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 the 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 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 by early May, 2022. Successful grants can be activated soon after notification of awards and can be spent as early as the summer term of 2022; the funds may continue to be used through April, 2023. Any remaining funds not used during that period will be returned to the Department of Biological Sciences.

Research Presentation:

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.

For more information: Contact any faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences to discuss possible research projects. Questions regarding formatting or submission of applications can be directed to the Biological Sciences Undergraduate Affairs Committee at uga@uidaho.edu, or Doug Cole at dcole@uidaho.edu.