Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agricultural Research Division

Undergraduate Student Research Program

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Research Division (ARD) is committed to providing undergraduate students with an exceptional research experience to assist in fulfilling their thesis requirement or other scholastic research at UNL. Funds designated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Reallocation Plan along with unit matching funds support the ***IANR ARD Undergraduate Student Research Program.*** The Program will support undergraduate students working with ARD faculty. This competitive grant program will also acquaint students with the scientific method, provide strong research and learning experiences, stimulate interest in teaching and research careers, and inform students about opportunities in graduate study.

GUIDELINES

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to undergraduate junior and senior students proposing to conduct their research with faculty who have an ARD appointment. Students must be enrolled at UNL for the duration of the ARD Undergraduate Student Research Program. Enrollment in the appropriate undergraduate thesis seminar or other research oriented seminar courses before or during the period of mentored research is strongly encouraged. Undergraduate students that have previously received funding from this program are ***not eligible*** to apply.

FUNDING

ARD will provide funding of up to $ 2,500 per student, for a maximum of 12 months. Also required are 100% matching funds from departments and/or faculty research programs. Funds may be used for research expenses, travel to conferences, registration fees, and student hourly wages. Unexpended funds will be returned to ARD.

Funds will be transferred to the faculty member's department to support the proposed research. Students ***will not*** receive funds directly.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND FORMAT

The proposal must be authored ***by the student*** with guidance from the faculty mentor. Proposals must be sent via email (***one combined PDF file***) to ardgrants@unl.edu and received by the published deadline. The proposal must include the following:

1. Cover page (*last page of these guidelines*)
2. A clear statement of the problem and explanation of how the proposed research will address the problem (maximum 1 page)
3. A work plan that includes goals, objectives, methods and a timeline (maximum 2 pages)
4. A budget justification for the $ 2,500 request from ARD and the 100% matching funds approved by the home department (maximum 1 page)
5. A letter from the faculty mentor describing their support for the student's research goals, and working relationship with the student
6. A statement written by the student describing career goals (maximum 1 page)

7. An independent study contract (available from the CASNR Dean's Office, 103 Agricultural Hall) that describes the joint expectations of the faculty mentor and student for fulfilling the grading requirement

FINAL REPORT

At the conclusion of the project, the student will submit a final report to ARD ardgrants@unl.edu within 30 days of project termination that includes a brief description of the project, budget/expenditure summary and a summary of the findings. A one-page executive summary should be included which provides potential impacts of the study.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Each student is expected to present their findings at one of the following:

1. UNL Undergraduate Research Conference
2. Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting
3. Professional meeting in their field

The student is required to notify the ARD Office ardgrants@unl.edu prior to their presentation with the time and location so that ARD faculty can be encouraged to attend. Students are also encouraged to make presentations to the appropriate student club or organization and at departmental seminars.

SELECTION CRITERIA

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated, by an ARD assigned committee, based on relevance and quality of the proposed projects according to the following criteria:

1. Research addresses issues in agricultural sciences, biology/life sciences, human sciences, or natural resources that are important within ARD
2. Originality of research and potential to contribute to the discipline
3. Potential for successful collaboration with faculty
4. The potential for the proposed research experience to contribute to the student's career goals
5. Appropriateness of proposed budget including matching funds
6. Distribution of projects throughout disciplines that are relevant to ARD
7. Proposal submitted with all required elements

Undergraduate Student Research Program

Cover Page

Date
mm/dd/yyyy

Proposed Research Topic Title
(*Please be concise*)

Student First Name

Student Last Name

Student Home Department

Student Major

Student ID Number

Campus Address

Student Phone Number
(402) xxx-xxxx

Student Email Address

Faculty Mentor Name

Faculty Mentor Home Department

Funds will be transferred to the Department listed here.

Faculty Mentor Signature _____ Date: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Please combine cover page with proposal PDF