Office of Research
and Innovation

UIWSOM Learner Research Award

Award Description

The UIWSOM Learner Research Award (LRA) supports and encourages mentored scholarly research, scientific inquiry, and inventive technology. This award is for UIWSOM learners who wish to conduct a research project and need financial assistance for necessary materials to begin to collect data. The award also includes a faculty mentor stipend of $500. Learners are strongly encouraged to identify a faculty mentor **EARLY** in the process so that the mentor can provide guidance in the preparation of the proposal.

Award Amount: Up to $1,500 for student and $500 for faculty mentor

Award Period: June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021

Application Period: March 1, 2020 – April 1, 2020

Eligibility

To be eligible for an award from the UIWSOM Learner Research Award, an applicant must be:
    (a) in good academic standing
    (b) enrolled in the semester or in the session that the research takes place
    (c) the sole or principal investigator

An award must be used during the academic year in which it was awarded. A learner is only eligible for funding once per fiscal year (June 1-May 31).

Budget Guidelines

The amount awarded is up to $1,500 for the student and $500 for the Faculty Mentor, allocated in the following manner:

- Research Support: up to $1,500. Research support includes costs for materials and resources required to begin or complete the project. The budget can include lab supplies, software, materials, or other items that are necessary to complete data collection or analysis. Ordering will be done through the Office of Research and Innovation. Research support does not include travel expenses for conferences or printing of a poster for presentation of completed research. LRA recipients are encouraged to apply for a Learner Travel Award to facilitate conference attendance to present research resulting from the LRA.

- Faculty Mentor: $500 stipend. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the faculty mentor and do not need to be included in the budget. The Faculty mentor will be required to complete a recommendation form, a mentor agreement, and an end of award evaluation.

Application Guide

Only completed applications will be accepted for review. The application sections and required information are listed below:

- **Project Proposal (limit to 4 pages)**
  - Describe how your research project relates to the mission of the UIWSOM.
  - Statement of Problem/Purpose – a brief description of the project, including a statement of your primary objectives in lay language.
  - Background Statement – a statement of the rationale for your project, including a succinct summary of relevant works.
  - Methodology – methods, procedures, or techniques used to accomplish the research.
  - Project Significance – consider the implications of your work on the community at large
  - Timeline – detail the progress of the project over its entire course.
  - Required Resources- describe staff, equipment, software, and additional resources required to complete the project.
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- **Bibliography/Works Cited**

- **Research and Regulatory Compliance**
  - Applicants whose research involves human subjects, animals, and/or bio-safety requirements must provide documentation demonstrating the applicant is seeking appropriate regulatory compliance (e.g., IRB, IACUC, Safety).
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- **Budget** (list all project costs indicating which are requested from the Undergraduate Research Award) $1,500 maximum. A budget template is included.
  - Research Support Costs: Costs for materials and resources required to begin or complete the project. This portion of the budget would include lab supplies, software, materials, or other items that are necessary to complete data collection or analysis. Research support does not include travel expenses for conferences or printing of completed research. The $500 Faculty Mentor stipend should not be included in the budget.

- **Faculty Mentor**
  - Identify a faculty mentor willing to work with you and guide you through the research process and provide your mentor the Faculty Mentor Recommendation and Agreement form at the end of this document. They should return this form to ORI before the application deadline.

Review of Applications

In preparing the proposals for submission, an applicant should remember that the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee (RSAC), which will review FSGRA applications, cannot include a specialist in every field. Therefore, the proposal should communicate the significance of the work in a manner that is understood across disciplines but can still include detail that a content expert would understand as well. Furthermore, proposals must adhere to guidelines on page limits and style. Any section that does not adhere to the page limits will have points deducted during evaluation and any material beyond the allotted page limit will not be reviewed.

Evaluation Criteria

The goal of the award is to support and encourage learner research and creative scholarship. Although the quality and significance of the work proposed is of paramount importance, consideration will be given to other factors that are relevant to the mission, vision, and advancement of the SOM.

The RSAC will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Associate Dean for the Office for Research and Innovation (ORI). Each section of the application will be reviewed and evaluated. Some of the major areas that will be evaluated are, but not limited to:

➢ Significance of the study to the discipline and to UIWSOM's strategic plan.
➢ Budget is justified and within reason for completion of the study.
➢ Overall proposal adheres to the guidelines and page limits.
➢ Project timeline is appropriate for the length of the award.

Reporting Requirements

- **Adverse Events:** Any adverse events that are reported to regulatory bodies (e.g., IRB, IACUC) must also be reported to the ORI.

- **Publication Costs:** Costs associated with publication in manuscript form of the results of an LRA study are likely to occur after the end of the funding period. Upon request, ORI will provide funds for publication of any work resulting from LRA funding.

- **Progress Report:** Six months after the start of funding, the Learner will present a maximum 2 page written summary of progress to the RSAC. The purpose of this report is to inform the RSAC of any successes and/or problems the PI has encountered. If the RSAC has any questions the learner can be asked to appear at the next scheduled RSASC meeting.

- **Final Report:** Within 30 days of the end of funding the Learner must submit a written report of the final status of the project which includes:
  o a summary of the work performed.
  o plans for dissemination of the results (e.g., abstracts, publications, presentations).
  o an accounting of the final budget.

For more information contact:
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