Undergraduate research funding opportunities

What supervisors need to know about applying for funding through URI

RSO Funding Fair – November 17, 2016
The Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI)

Supports the involvement of University of Alberta undergraduate students in research & creative activities – in all disciplines.
Funding programs administered by URI

**Stipend support***
- URI Stipend
  - Sustainability
  - SSHRC
- AIHS Summer Studentship

**Direct costs**
- URI Support Fund

For Stipend support:
- Students are paid directly from URI
- Supervisors may provide top-ups
- No other major awards may be held concurrently
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend

- $5000 Stipend to support an individual student in a mentored, interdisciplinary research project
- Projects can be 4-12 months in duration
- Open to students in any year and any discipline
- Two application deadlines each year:
  - Late October – for projects beginning in January
  - Late Feb/Early March – for projects beginning in May or September
- Next deadline: March 1, 2017
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Supervisor eligibility

• Supervisor may be U of A faculty, staff, graduate student, or external*

• *If the primary supervisor is NOT a U of A faculty member, a U of A faculty member sponsor is required.

• Supervisors may only apply with TWO students in each cycle
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend

Student eligibility

• Must be enrolled (full-time or part-time) as U of A undergraduate student at the time of application

• Must have satisfactory academic standing

• May not receive the URI Stipend and academic credit for the same project

• May not have held the URI Stipend previously
# URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend

## Adjudication criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>STUDENT + SUPERVISOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Student skill development (x2)</td>
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<td>• Quality of the proposal (x2)</td>
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<td>• Merit of the project</td>
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<td>• Interdisciplinary aspects of the project (x2)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUPERVISOR</th>
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<td>• Supervisor commitment</td>
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<td>• Financial need</td>
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URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Application tips

• Proposal must be written by the student, with feedback/support from the supervisor

• Application MUST be accessible to adjudicators from a variety of disciplines

• Students are encouraged to visit URI for feedback on their applications

• Research question & role of student must be clearly defined

• Supervisor section must be tailored for each student – do not copy and paste for multiple students
Targeted funding available through URI Stipend

Targeted funding is available through URI Stipend for:

- Projects related to campus sustainability
  - Complete statement on how the project relates to campus sustainability
- Projects supervised by current SSHRC holders
  - Supervisors indicate project title, PI, and term of the SSHRC award

Proposals must also meet URI eligibility & adjudication criteria.
Alberta Innovates Health Solutions Summer Studentship

- $1500/month stipend for 2-4 months of health sciences/medical research during the summer months (May-August)

- As of January 2016, administered at the U of A by URI

- Next deadline: February 6, 2017
AIHS Summer Studentship
Supervisor eligibility

• Supervisor must have a primary faculty appointment at the U of A

• Supervisors may only apply with TWO students in each cycle

• Supervisors must demonstrate a record of relevant research publications & sufficient operating funding to support the student’s research.
AIHS Summer Studentship
Student eligibility

• Applicants must be enrolled in:
  • an undergraduate or MD program
  • Grade 12 of high school
• Must be able to work at least 8 consecutive weeks between May-August
• May be enrolled at another post-secondary institution and wishing to undertake research at the U of A.
• May not receive the AIHS Summer Studentship and academic credit for the same project
# AIHS Summer Studentship Adjudication Criteria

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>Merit of the project</td>
<td>Supervisor (proposal) + STUDENT (abstract)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>publications, funding, mentorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Proposal</td>
<td><strong>SUPERVISOR</strong> (proposal) + STUDENT (abstract)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student (x2)</td>
<td>Anticipated professional development (STUDENT)</td>
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<td>Relevance of student’s background/academic preparedness (STUDENT)</td>
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<td>Student’s role &amp; skill development (SUPERVISOR)</td>
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AIHS Summer Studentship
Key changes

 Students:

• Greater emphasis on student skill development and professional goals. How does this experience build on what the student has done before, or provide a new opportunity?

 Supervisors:

• Comprehensive publication list from last 3 years is not required. Please select 3-5 publications most relevant to the proposal and describe their relevance to the proposal.

• Funding: identify the operating grant that will directly support the student’s research.
Consent to share AIHS application packages

- Supervisors from Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
- Supervisors from Department of Surgery
- Supervisors who are members of the Alberta Diabetes Institute

Please provide consent in the application form to share your AIHS application package (including student transcripts) for further adjudication of awards administered by these units.
Award decision timelines & next steps

• URI Stipend & AIHS Summer Studentship results will be available by late March / early April.

• Students are welcome and encouraged to request feedback on their applications.

• URI administers award payments directly.

• URI does a mid-project check-in with students & supervisors

• Final reports are due within 10 days of the project end date
URI Support Fund

- One-time reimbursement of up to $500 in undergraduate research-related expenses.
- Primary applicant can be a U of A undergraduate student, graduate student, faculty or staff
- Proposed expenses must align with one of URI’s core functions (see program guide for details)
- Adjudication based on alignment with URI functions, impact on student(s), and financial need.
URI Support Fund
Exclusions

The URI Support Fund may not be used for:

• Conference-related travel (including registration fees)
• Equipment or supplies that remain with the student after the project is completed
• Publication fees for publications co-authored with a faculty member
• Materials/supplies required for courses supported by the faculty/department, or for which students are assessed supplemental fees
URI Support Fund Process

**Step 1:** Submit application (with budget & supporting documentation) online at least 3 weeks prior to incurring expenses.

**Step 2:** After application is approved, spend the funds you were approved for.

**Step 3:** Submit a brief final report on the project.

**Step 4:** Submit original receipts for the approved expenses for reimbursement.
Program details available at:

- Detailed program guides & tip sheets
- Deadlines
- Info sessions for applicants
- Final report forms
- Application forms
  - Google form
  - Word template for offline use

http://www.uri.ualberta.ca/ApplyForFunding.aspx
Questions?

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- Crystal Snyder, Undergraduate Research Coordinator (cs2@ualberta.ca; 780-492-4183)

- Navita Kalra, URI Funding Advisor (nkalra@ualberta.ca; 780-248-1933)

- Connie Varnhagen, URI Academic Director (varn@ualberta.ca)