Undergraduate research funding opportunities

What supervisors need to know about applying for funding through URI

RSO Funding Fair – November 22, 2018
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 the URI

**Stipend Support***
- URI Stipend  
  – deadline Feb 27/19
- Targeted funding is available in several areas

**Direct Costs**  
(reimbursement program)
- URI Support Fund  
  – applications accepted year-round

*For Stipend support:*
- Students are paid directly from URI
- Supervisors may provide top-ups
- No other awards may be held concurrently
Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS) Summer Studentship

- This award is administered at the University of Alberta by URI.

- Supports undergraduate or medical students (at any institution) engaged in medical/health sciences research at the University of Alberta.

- $1500/month for 2-4 months (between May and August), paid directly to the student.

- Competition for 2019 has not yet been announced (watch our website for updates).
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend

- $5000 Stipend to support a mentored, interdisciplinary research project
- Projects can be 4-12 months in duration
- Open to students in any year and any discipline
- Applications can be written in English or French
- Next application deadline: February 27, 2019
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Supervisor eligibility

- Supervisor may be U of A faculty, staff, graduate student, or external*
- Supervisors may only apply with TWO students in each cycle

*If the primary supervisor is NOT a U of A faculty member, a U of A faculty member must sponsor the application.
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
- Holders of previous undergrad or graduate degrees are NOT eligible.
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Adjudication Criteria (revised Fall 2018)

- Student skill development (x2)
- Quality of the proposal (x2)
- Impact/Outcomes of the project (x1)

**STUDENT**

- Interdisciplinary aspects of the project (x2)
- Role of the Student (x2)

**STUDENT + SUPERVISOR**

- Supervisor commitment (x1)

**SUPERVISOR**
Interdisciplinary research integrates or synthesizes information, methods, concepts and/or theories from two or more disciplines to address research questions that are beyond the scope of a single discipline.

URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Interdisciplinary Research

• How does the proposed research integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines?

• How does the proposed project benefit from an interdisciplinary approach?

• How do the interdisciplinary aspects of the project contribute to the student’s skill development?
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend

Application tips

• Proposal must be written by the student, with feedback/support from the supervisor. **Do not write the proposal on behalf of the student.**

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

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

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

- URI has agreements in place with several partners to allocate a small number of awards in targeted areas, through a single application & adjudication process.

- Applications for targeted funding are adjudicated according to URI Stipend guidelines first. Applications are then assessed for eligibility for targeted funding. Funding is allocated from the most appropriate pool.

- URI Stipend applications are welcome and encouraged from all research areas (not just targeted areas).
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Targeted funding - areas

● Projects relating to campus sustainability
● Projects supervised by SSHRC grant holders
● Projects affiliated with the Faculty of ALES (student or faculty member from ALES and ALES-aligned research)
● Projects undertaken by First Nations, Metis or Inuit (FNMI) students
URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend
Award decision timelines & next steps

- Results typically available 4 weeks after deadline.
- 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.
- Student final reports are due within 10 days of the project end date. No supervisor report is required.
URI Support Fund
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.

- Adjudication based on alignment with URI functions, impact on student(s), and financial need.
URI Support Fund

Applications must align with one or more URI functions:

- awareness-raising & promotion of undergraduate research
- facilitating opportunities for undergraduates to do research
- supporting undergraduate research skill development disseminating or celebrating undergraduate research achievements
- creating & sustaining a culture of undergraduate research at the University of Alberta
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 uab.ca/uri

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

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