

Scholarships for Undergraduate Research Request for Proposals

Department of Geosciences
Oregon State University



Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Award Announcement: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Description

The Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University is pleased to announce the availability of stipends to help support undergraduate student research projects. These awards are made possible by the Christian John Hunt Memorial Fund (for geography students) and the Richard W. Chambers Geology Scholarship Fund. Approximately \$8,000 will be awarded to support undergraduate student research activities in summer 2009 and academic year 2009-2010.

The Department of Geosciences has the faculty and facilities to engage undergraduate students in a broad range of geosciences research. Participating students will become actively involved in the scholarly pursuits of the faculty in a collaborative learning environment. Departmental research areas include volcanology, petrology, and economic geology, active tectonics, surficial processes and geomorphology, glacial geology and paleoclimatology, water resources and resource geography, and geographic information science. Students should contact faculty in their area(s) of interest directly to learn more about current research opportunities.

Eligibility

Students currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree through the Department of Geosciences at OSU, and who are sophomores or juniors in good academic standing, are eligible to apply. It is expected that research supported by these awards will be written in the form of a senior thesis.

Award Information

Awards will range from \$1000 to \$3000 (for exceptional proposals). Approximately five awards will be made. Applicants will be notified via e-mail of award decisions by the announcement date listed at the top of this page.

Use of Funds

Awards are made to support undergraduate student research activities. Awards will be made in the form of stipends to the student's OSU account through the Financial Aid Office. Stipends may be credited during the spring 2008 term to support research activities during the summer. Alternatively, stipends may be credited during the fall 2008 and winter and spring 2009 terms to support research activities during the 2008-2009 academic years. Geography students may also apply for funding to cover travel expenses, supplies, lab fees, etc. Geology students need to estimate such expenses in this application and seek matching funds from other sources.

Matching Funds

Preference will be given to proposals eligible for matching funds through other funding programs such as the Undergraduate Research Innovation, Scholarship, and Creativity (URISC) program. Students also applying to the URISC program must ensure their proposals also meet the URISC criteria for funding as described on the [URISC website](#). **Note URISC deadline:** Monday, March 2, 2009.

Application Procedure and Instructions

1. **Contact** Kaplan Yalcin (yalcink@geo.oregonstate.edu) to request an application form.
2. **Complete** all sections of the application form. Proposals must be initiated and written by the student, but should be done in close collaboration with the faculty project advisor

3. **Describe** the proposed research and broader impacts to the student in not more than two pages each. These sections must be written by the student, although the faculty project advisor should review and comment on drafts before the student submits the application.

4. **Add** the following supporting documentation at the end of the application (these should be cut and pasted electronically at the end of the application form):

- Project Description
- Broader Impacts to the Student
- Student's resume. The resume should include the student's academic program, current academic standing, and expected date of graduation.

5. **Letter of support:** A letter of support from the faculty member who will be overseeing the project or activity should be sent directly to Kaplan Yalcin, yalcink@geo.oregonstate.edu.

6. **Sign:** The student and faculty project advisor should both sign the application.

7. **Submit** the completed application packet. Incomplete proposal packets will not be considered for funding.

- Submit the application electronically as a single file attachment via email to Kaplan Yalcin, yalcink@geo.oregonstate.edu.
- Also deliver one complete hard-copy application packet (with original signatures) to Kaplan Yalcin in 102D Wilkinson.

8. **Apply for matching funds:** The departmental application is closely aligned with the URISC application to allow the student to also submit their proposal to the URISC program. See the URISC home page at <http://oregonstate.edu/research/incentive/urisc.htm> for details. Note that the departmental awards are made in the form of stipends through the Financial Aid Office and cannot be used to pay for supplies, travel, etc. (except for Geography students receiving awards from the Hunt Fund). Faculty mentors are encouraged to obtain supplementals to existing research grants to fund supplies, travel, etc., through the NSF REU program.

Deadlines

All application materials, including supporting documentation, must be received by 5:00 p.m. by the deadline indicated at the top of this page. Incomplete proposal packets will not be considered for funding.

Review Procedure

The undergraduate research coordinator reviews all proposals for completeness and eligibility. Proposals that are complete and eligible for funding will be competitively evaluated by a committee consisting of the undergraduate research coordinator and at least one faculty member from both the Geology and Geography programs. The Review Committee will provide a prioritized list of recommendations for funding to the Department Chair based on the quality of the proposals as reflected in the review criteria. The Department Chair will make award decisions based on available funds.

Review Criteria

Proposals should provide clear explanations of the purpose, importance and methodologies of the proposed topic, and avoid the use of specialized jargon and unexplained acronyms.

Each eligible proposal is evaluated in the following four categories:

1. Scholarly Merit

- Would funding this project create a professional experience for the student that might not otherwise be accessible?
- What benefits will the student gain?
- Is the project interesting and the objectives realistic and attainable for the student?
- Will the proposed activity significantly expand or diversify the student's scholarly base?

2. Proposal Merit

- Is the proposal well written, with a clear statement of overall project objectives and the student's role?
- Does the proposal provide independent research study for the student?
- Are the proposed methods appropriate and accurate?

3. Student Merit

- Does the student's academic background and intellectual aptitude show promise or potential for success in research activities?
- Is this a new research experience for the student?
- Does the proposed activity support the student's educational objectives?
- Is the student a good candidate for a senior thesis?

4. Leverage

- Will the project create opportunities to continue the research experience for the student beyond the funding period?
- Are matching funds already committed or available?
- Does the proposal explicitly explain how matching funds will be solicited?
- Will the project help position the student to pursue further scholarly or professional opportunities such as graduate school?

Other Requirements

Final Reports: From students who receive awards, a final report will be due at the end of the term in which the research was conducted (i.e., September for awards for summer term, June for awards for the academic year). The report should contain a brief summary of the research conducted and the preliminary outcomes. It should also include a plan or schedule for continued interpretation, publication, and dissemination of the results of the project (i.e., senior thesis, manuscripts in preparation, department seminar presentation, etc.).

Acknowledgments: Any publications made possible by these awards are required to site the financial support or the Christian John Hunt Memorial Fund or the Richard W. Chamber Geology Scholarship Fund and the OSU Foundation. Geography students receiving an award from the Christian John Hunt Memorial Fund are required to write an acknowledgment letter describing the work that was made possible by the awards. See Kaplan Yalcin for details on where to address the acknowledgement letter.

For More Information

For an application form and more information, contact Kaplan Yalcin, 102 D Wilkinson, yalcink@geo.oregonstate.edu; phone 737-1230