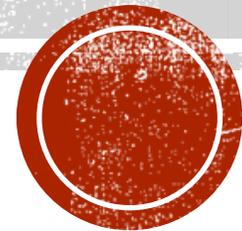


Maryland Summer Scholars Program

Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research
1201 Marie Mount Hall
Email: ugresearch@umd.edu
Website: www.ugresearch.umd.edu



Why do undergraduate research?

- Get hands-on experience in your field
- Understand how discoveries are made
- Learn new skills, procedures, and computer programs
- Develop professional contacts and friendships, useful for later recommendations and networking
- Great experience for graduate school & medical school

MARYLAND SUMMER SCHOLARS SUPPORTS UMD UNDERGRADUATES WHO WANT TO DO MENTORED RESEARCH PROJECTS DURING THE SUMMER:

- Mentored research = Supervision and guidance by UMD faculty member or equivalent
- YOU propose a research project. Can be your own topic or related to faculty mentor's research
- Research in any major/discipline including humanities, STEM, and social sciences
- Funding: \$3,000 stipend for the summer (paid at end of spring semester) plus a possible additional \$1,000 for research-related travel

ELIGIBILITY:

- Have earned 12 or more UMD course credits by the date of the application deadline
- Have a cumulative UMD GPA of 3.40 or higher by the date of the application deadline
- Expect to receive your undergraduate degree from UMD no earlier than December 2018
- Undergraduates who are US Citizens, permanent residents, or foreign citizens are all eligible (However, visa status must permit MSS fund payment)

MARYLAND SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Must complete approx. 300 hours or more of research during 8 to 10 weeks during summer. Can be worked around a part-time summer job.
- Must submit a final report or other formal product of your summer research:
 - May be a 8 – 10 page report (double-spaced) submitted by mid-September;
OR, by approval, no later than the end of fall semester:
 - A poster/paper/article submitted to a conference or publication
 - A thesis paper or other for-credit extension of your summer research;
 - A multimedia representation of your summer work (DVD, art portfolio, etc.)
- Must present poster during Undergraduate Research Day the following spring (unless graduating in December)

FINDING A FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR:

- Mentors should have full-time teaching or research appointments at UMD. They do not have to be tenure-track; contact MCUR with specific questions.
- Project mentors may be full-time researchers based off campus (i.e. NIH, NASA) **if** a UMD faculty member can serve as a ‘sponsoring’ mentor on campus
- Most MSS proposals build on an existing relationship with a teacher/mentor; some may be built on a relationship you develop specifically for this purpose
- To identify potential mentors, talk to your teachers and undergraduate major directors and advisors; use your major department’s website faculty listings to learn about potential mentors

FINDING A FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR:

- Use your major departments website faculty listings to learn about potential mentors



Researchers in Brain, Mind, and Behavior

Faculty and Staff Researchers

- [Gregory Ball](#)
- [Jonathan Beier](#)
- [Edward Bernat](#)
- [Gregory Bissonette](#)
- [Jack Blanchard](#)
- [Steven Brauth](#)

Graduate Researchers

- [Mehnoosh Ahmadi](#)
- [David Ampofo](#)
- [Laura Anderson](#)
- [Tara Augenstein](#)
- [Chelsey Barrios](#)
- [Sarah Blankenship](#)

COMPONENTS OF A SUMMER SCHOLARS APPLICATION:

- A completed online application form
- A student-written summer research proposal, uploaded as PDF to the online application
- An unofficial Maryland transcript, uploaded as PDF to the online application
- Two letters of recommendation:
 - One from the proposed mentor, addressing the merit of the proposed summer research and the student's qualification to undertake that project; must include a mentoring plan/timetable
 - A second letter of recommendation which may be a) from a secondary mentor/advisor for the summer research project or b) a general academic reference addressing the student's academic abilities and potential

Deadline:

**Wednesday
February 14,
2018**

PUTTING TOGETHER A MARYLAND SUMMER SCHOLARS PROPOSAL

- Look at website, <http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-summerscholars.html>, especially “Advice for Project Proposal:” <http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-mssprojectproposal.html>
- Identify your faculty mentor before the start of winter break; meet with your mentor to help define/refine proposal topic and summer research plan; get feedback from your mentor on your MSS proposal drafts
- Start work on your proposal EARLY!!!

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MSS PROJECT PROPOSALS

Proposal should be about two pages, single-spaced; use endnotes to cite sources

1. Introduction – one or two paragraphs

- What is your topic?
- What do you hope to accomplish/learn through this project?
- What is the potential impact of your project?

2. Context or Background – one paragraph

- Why is this topic significant?
- What work has previously been done?
- Use facts, figures, and statistics and cite sources in endnotes (on separate page).

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MSS PROJECT PROPOSALS (CONT'D)

3. Your Research Questions and Plan – two or three substantial paragraphs

- What are research questions you will pose and try to answer?
- Is off-campus travel necessary for your project?
- What will be your final product?
- What is your timeline for getting things done?

4. Your Mentoring Plan – one paragraph

- Who is your mentor?
 - If you have a non-UMD mentor, who is your UMD faculty 'sponsor'?
- What makes this person a qualified and appropriate project mentor?
- How do you plan to discuss the project throughout the summer?

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF MSS PROJECT PROPOSALS (CONT'D)

5. Your Key Qualifications and Background for this Project – one paragraph

- How do your prior or current experiences support your ability to carry out your project?
 - **Including:** studies (courses taken, study abroad), research experiences, internships, extracurricular activities, foreign languages, subject-specific knowledge (such as software programs), or other abilities

6. Your Broader Reasons for Undertaking this Project – one paragraph

- Will the project contribute to your academic and or professional trajectory?
- Will your summer work become part of a larger project (Honors thesis, continuing research, publication, presentation or performance) in the following semester or academic year?

MSS REVIEW AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

MSS awards are made competitively, based on an academic review of the project proposal and other required application materials. All aspects of the application are considered carefully.

Primary criteria for evaluation of proposals are:

- Academic merit and feasibility of the proposed project
- Academic and other relevant preparation of the student for the proposed project
- Clarity and adequacy of the written research plan
- Degree of student initiative and responsibility for the work proposed
- Suitability of the proposed mentoring plan
- Impact of the proposed project on the applicant's development

MSS SUMMER FUNDING

- MSS must be your only source of research funding
 - You may not use both the MSS and another summer research award to support for the same work you are proposing to carry out with MSS support
 - If you will be paid hourly wages, or receive a non-MSS stipend or salary for the same work you are proposing to carry out with MSS support, then you are not eligible to receive the award
- Students offered MSS awards are free to decline MSS funding in favor of more advantageous offers
- Please consult with MCUR staff in advance of applying if you have specific questions regarding funding

HHMI UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

- Students applying for HHMI summer funding are automatically considered for MSS if they meet MSS eligibility requirements
- Students who wish to have HHMI research proposals considered for MSS do not need to submit an MSS application

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS:

- Deadline: **Wednesday, February 14, 2018**; online submission form can be accessed from the “Apply Now” link on the website:

<http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-summer-scholars.html>

- If you want to apply for next summer, start looking for a research mentor now. Plan to meet with them to discuss and fine-tune your proposal
- Feel free to make an appointment to discuss your questions by writing to us at ugresearch@umd.edu