

Emerging Scholars – 2021 Summer Research, Scholarship and Creativity Program

Description: The program's goal is to support students early in the exploration of their interests in research, scholarship and creativity and in developing their research and artistic skills. Students work under the tutelage of a faculty mentor or mentors. This program differs from other summer research grant programs, such as the Program for Undergraduate Research (PUR), which call for detailed project proposals outlining structured research projects. Instead, Emerging Scholars are expected to pursue exploratory, conceptual, and applied research, scholarship, or creative projects. Often this exploratory work will develop into a more structured research proposal for future work or an honors thesis. This program intends to support students who show intellectual curiosity and a keen interest in scholarly endeavors, and thus offer great promise as future scholars, artists and researchers, but who are early in the development of relevant skills.

Expectations: Successful applicants are expected to work on their scholarship on a fulltime basis, 30 hours or more a week (with the understanding that this amount will necessarily vary week to week based on the project), for at least 8 weeks, preferably 10 weeks, over the summer under the close mentorship of a Bucknell faculty member.

Scholars will also participate in scholarly and professional development workshops that will meet weekly in June and July in a hybrid mode.

By August 15, scholars will submit a copy of the final product of the research/scholarship/creative project along with a reflection on the experience. The faculty member will be asked to verify and assess the scholars' research progress in the middle and at the end of the summer, and attend a culminating event of student presentations.

Scholars are expected to present their project at the *Kalman Research Symposium* to be held in spring 2022 and are strongly encouraged to also present at other conferences, including the Susquehanna Valley Undergraduate Research usually held the last Wednesday of July.

Award: Successful applicants will receive a \$400 weekly stipend over the summer, in approximately three payments, and have access to university housing without fee, from May 23 to July 31 when they will move into their fall assignment. Both the stipend and the housing, valued at \$175 per week, may be taxable income subject to the student's unique tax circumstance. Faculty mentors will receive \$500.

Eligibility: Eligible candidates include undergraduate students enrolled and in good standing at Bucknell University; this excludes students who will graduate before August 2021. Because the program is intended to foster students early in their research, scholarship or creative endeavors, those who have previously enjoyed university support for their research or scholarly work, e.g. through PUR, BIPP, department funding, grants or Presidential Fellows, are ineligible.

Application: The application is in two parts. One should be written by the student, the other by the faculty mentor. Each part is submitted separately, though the faculty mentor should review the student's portion. The application must include a clearly defined set of goals for the proposed scholarship that are achievable within a period of 8 – 10 weeks during the summer months. Both the student's and faculty mentor's parts should evidence a close intellectual collaboration between the student and the faculty mentor.

The application should clearly address each of the points below and be written in language that is understandable to a general audience. The goals of the project and the student's work plan should be

clearly evident. Please note that grammatical lapses, sloppy editing, and spelling errors will negatively influence the committee's impression of the proposal.

A strong Emerging Scholar proposal is clear, complete, and comprehensively addresses all that is requested below. The reader should have a good idea of what the student will do throughout the summer and how they will spend their time. The reader should also have a sense that that time will have been well spent by both the student and the faculty mentor and that the undertaking is worthwhile and meritorious. Consequently, the quality of the relationship between the faculty mentor and the student is critical to a successful Emerging Scholars experience.

Because the quality of the mentoring relationship is so important to a rewarding summer for the student, the summer of 2021 is not an ordinary summer. Accordingly, for summer 2021, the selection committee will entertain proposals for Emerging Scholars to conduct their work remotely and participate in the weekly workshops remotely. If the student intends to work remotely, this should be clearly stated and both the student and the faculty member should explain how the mentoring relationship will be kindled and nurtured throughout the summer, including how it can be promptly accessed in times of crisis or triumph.

PART I: STUDENT STATEMENT

Students interested in applying for this program should submit an application that includes the following:

- Cover Page indicating: (1) Title of the Project, (2) Student Name and Class Year, (3) Campus Address (Box #) and Cell Phone #, (4) Email Address, (5) Student BUID, (6) Student's major(s); (7) Name, Department, and Email Address of Faculty Mentor(s); (8) Number of weeks of research proposed (8, 9 or 10 weeks); (9) Whether the student will be working on campus or remotely; (10) Has the student previously received funding to support their research, scholarship or creativity.
- Student's statement of interest that addresses the following points in up to three, single-spaced pages with 12-point font and one-inch margins on all sides (citations can spill over to the fourth page):
 - A presentation of the research topic(s), research question(s), or scholarship/creative theme(s);
 - A statement explaining why this topic is important or valuable to explore and why the student is interested in the research area;
 - An explanation of how the student intends to begin the examination or exploration of the subject, what methods they might employ to conduct the examination, and thus what research or scholarship skills the student hopes to gain;
 - A brief summary of what the proposed research will produce (e.g., an annotated bibliography, a literature review, research paper, research poster, a collection of short stories, poems, sculptures, or musical compositions); and
 - A statement of how the project will support the student's educational goals (e.g. supporting development of an honors thesis project during senior year) and how the student is prepared to undertake this research, including whether their previous academic performance is, or is not, predictive of their likely success in this Emerging Scholar project, and why;

- Summary of any prior research projects, related or not, including any funding the student received.
- An unofficial transcript

PART II: Faculty Statement

The faculty mentor should provide, under separate cover, a supporting statement that offers information about the following:

Description of the research question(s) or scholarship theme(s) and educational goals: Provide a brief discussion of the research, scholarly project, or creative undertaking and its educational goals or objectives.

Description of the Student's Potential: Describe the student's potential to develop into a strong scholar or researcher in the future, including any preparation the student has for completing the proposed project, if any, e.g. relevant coursework or training in research methods, and how the student's past academic performance is, or is not, predictive of their success in this project and why. In addition, explain how the summer work will contribute to the student's educational objectives.

Description of the Research Environment: Explain the context of the student's work, including the anticipated work plan (and timeline if one is known), as well as the support to be provided to the student. Explain how regular and substantive communication between student and mentor will be maintained throughout the course of the project. *The frequency with which the student and mentor interact, and the general availability of the mentor, will be important factors in selecting Emerging Scholars.*

Relationship to the Faculty Mentor's Scholarship and Teaching: Summarize how the project relates to the faculty mentor's scholarship or teaching.

Faculty Endorsement: Conclude with a statement endorsing the student's work on the proposed project and the faculty mentor's willingness to collaborate with the student in the education mission of this research.

If the proposed project involves human or animal subjects, it is the student's and faculty member's responsibility to obtain any required IRB or IACUC approvals.

Submission: Students and faculty mentors, please submit your statements separately to Candice McGaw via email to cm046@bucknell.edu. Applications will be accepted electronically, as a pdf or Word attachment. The deadline for submission is noon on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021.**

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Candice McGaw at cm046@bucknell.edu or 570-577-3655. If you have questions about your application as you are developing it, feel free to contact Margaret Marr at 570-577-1979 or Margaret.Marr@Bucknell.edu