

Program for Undergraduate Research at Bucknell

Application Instructions

Program for Undergraduate Research (PUR) welcomes applications from Bucknell students in all disciplines to conduct research, including creative projects, under the guidance of a faculty or staff mentor in the summer of 2022. The application is the responsibility of, and must be written by, the student proposing the project – not the faculty or staff member with whom the student will collaborate. The student’s application consists of background information collected on the Google form linked below, and a project proposal uploaded as a PDF to the Google form. A mentor’s endorsement, uploaded as a PDF to a separate Google form linked below, is also required for a complete application.

The proposal must include a clear description of the proposed undertaking, including the project’s aim and a clearly defined process or method. The proposal should demonstrate that the project can be completed within the proposed duration. A successful proposal will demonstrate an intellectual collaboration between the student and research mentor in both the formulation and completion of the project. Proposals should also demonstrate the mentor and student will be in close contact throughout the summer, including frequent meetings, preferably in person whenever possible. The proposal should be written to be understandable to a general audience, including those whose area of specialization is outside that of the proposed project. Grammatical lapses and spelling errors will negatively influence the committee’s impression of the proposal. Citations are encouraged.

Student’s Project Proposal

In total, the student’s proposal should not exceed three pages, single-spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins, although references may appear on the fourth page. It must be saved as a PDF to be uploaded to the Google form below. The proposal should contain each of components below (A through E), though the segments (A-E) may appear in a different order if the student chooses.

A: The research question, problem, or creative undertaking

The research question, problem being addressed, or aim of the creative endeavor, must be clearly stated, as should any anticipated answers, solutions, or discoveries. Cite relevant literature as is appropriate.

B: Research Value

Articulate the value of the endeavor. What is the significance of pursuing an answer to the question, finding a solution to the problem, exploring a neglected area of scholarship, or engaging in a creative work or artistic practice? Explain why this undertaking is a valuable investment of time and resources. Simply gaining experience in a given field will not be evaluated as highly as more specific goals or outcomes for the proposed project.

C: Project description, including methods and anticipated outcomes.

Explain clearly how the research will be conducted or the project carried out, citing relevant literature where appropriate. The feasibility of the proposed methodology must be evident. Applicants should include where the work will be performed, indicating the dates or frequency of any use of off-campus sites (bearing in mind relevant coronavirus restrictions). The research facilities or studios should be described and appropriate for the kind of work to be done. A recognition of time

constraints is important in designing a project that can achieve meaningful results during the course of the summer. Regardless of what is proposed, a logical connection between process and outcome must be evident to the selection committee.

D: Sharing the Results

Describe how the results, outcome or product of the project will be shared or distributed in addition to the Kalman Research Symposium. Examples include a professional conference presentation, recital, manuscript, paper, short story, book chapter, or collection of poems for publication and the place(s) it will likely be published or publication sought. For an artistic piece or production, describe how and where it will likely be displayed, produced, or performed.

E: The Mentoring Relationship

Explain the anticipated contact and communication between student and mentor. The quality of the mentoring relationship, including the frequency with which the student and mentor interact, will be important factors in selecting grant recipients. Communication is expected to be both regular and substantive throughout the project. Having the student and mentor both on campus is preferred but not necessarily required, depending upon the project and discipline.

Mentor Endorsement

Due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday February 8, 2022

The mentor who intends to collaborate on the proposed project will submit, through the separate Google form below, a confidential, realistic description of their involvement in the formulation and implementation of the project. This should include a detailed description of the anticipated mentoring relationship including the nature, frequency, and method of their interaction (in person, Zoom, WhatsApp, etc.) throughout the project. The selection committee wishes to promote a high degree of intellectual engagement between student and mentor; it and will look for evidence of substantive and effective mentorship. The frequency with which the student and mentor interact, and the general availability of the mentor, will be important factors in selecting grant recipients. Having the student and mentor both on campus is preferred but not necessarily required, depending upon the project and discipline.

The mentor's endorsement should include a description of:

- the achievability and scholarly value of the project;
- how the student is particularly qualified to undertake the proposed work;
- how the mentor perceives the project will benefit the student's education;
- nature of the mentoring relationship, including frequency and method of communication
- how the project relates to the mentor's scholarship

Note: If the proposed project involves human or animal subjects, it is the mentor's responsibility to ensure that the student obtains the requisite IRB or IACUC approval and to support the student through those processes.

Proposal Submission

The student's portion of the application may be submitted through this [Google form](#).

The mentor's portion of the application may be submitted through this [Google form](#).

The submission deadline for summer 2022 is Tuesday, **Feb. 8, 2022** at 11:59 p.m. ET. The Office of Undergraduate Fellowships and Research expects to notify applicants of decisions before spring break. Funding decisions will, of necessity, be contingent on the university's being open, operating, and permitting scholarly work being conducted over the summer, despite the coronavirus.

Further Information

Contact Margaret Marr, Director for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, x71979, Margaret.Marr@bucknell.edu

Sample applications and do's and don'ts can be found at <http://purapplications.blogs.bucknell.edu/>.