

# Program for Undergraduate Research at Bucknell

## Application Instructions

Program for Undergraduate Research (PUR) grants are open to all disciplines. PUR applications may propose to conduct research, engage in other scholarship, or complete a creative project.

The application is the responsibility of, and must be written by, the student proposing the project – not the faculty member with whom the student will collaborate. The proposal must include a clear research question, problem, or creative undertaking, as well as a clearly-defined process or method by which the project is to be undertaken. 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 faculty member in both the formulation and conduct of the project. Such proposals should also demonstrate the faculty member and student will be in close contact throughout the summer, including frequent in person meetings.

The proposal, as written, should be understandable to a general audience, including those whose area of specialization is outside that in which the proposed work is to be conducted. It is important that each component of the application (see below) be fully completed, though the segments of the project proposal (II.A-E) may appear in a different order if the student so chooses. Grammatical lapses and spelling errors will negatively influence the committee's impression of the proposal.

### **Part I: Cover Page**

1. Title of the project
2. Number of weeks the project will be conducted over the summer
3. Student name and class year
4. Student BUID
5. Student's major(s) and minor(s)
6. Student's email address
7. Student's cell phone #
8. Faculty mentor's: a) name; b) department; c) email address
9. Signatures (or other affirmation of authorship and faculty approval) of both the student and faculty mentor

### **Part II: 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.)

#### **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, discoveries or products. Cite relevant literature as is appropriate.

#### **B: 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 are advised to describe where the work is to 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.

### **C: 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.

### **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, manuscript, paper, short story, book chapter, or collection of poems for publication and the place(s) it will likely be published or in which publication will be sought. For an artistic piece or production, describe how and where it will likely be displayed, produced, or performed.

### **E: The Faculty Mentoring Relationship**

Explain the anticipated contact and communication between student and faculty mentor. The selection committee wishes to promote a high degree of intellectual engagement between student and mentor, and will look for evidence that such a relationship will exist. Communication is expected to be both regular and substantive throughout the project. Project proposals in which the student and faculty member are in different sites and/or are communicating, for example, only by e-mail, are strongly discouraged. The frequency with which the student and mentor interact, and the general availability of the mentor will be important factors in selecting summer fellows.

## **Part III: Faculty Endorsement**

**(Written and signed by the faculty member and submitted separately from the student's proposal. Endorsement letters should be sent to the email address below as a pdf attachment on or prior to Feb 23, 2021.)**

The faculty member who intends to collaborate on the proposed project should submit, under separate cover, a confidential realistic description of his/her involvement in the formulation and implementation of the project. This should include a detailed description of the method of the collaboration with the student **including the nature and frequency of their interaction over the period of the project** (including the number of weeks during the summer the faculty member expects to meet with the student in person).

The faculty endorsement should conclude with a brief description of:

- a) how the project relates to his/her scholarship;
- b) how the student is particularly qualified to undertake the proposed work; and
- c) how the faculty member perceives the project will benefit the student's education.

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

## **Proposal Submission**

Please submit proposals to Candice McGaw at [cm046@bucknell.edu](mailto:cm046@bucknell.edu). Applications will be accepted electronically, as a pdf attachment to an email.

The submission deadline for summer 2021 is Tuesday, **Feb. 23, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. ET. Applicants can expect to be notified of the selection committee's decision before the end of March. Funding decisions will, of necessity, be contingent on the university's being open, operating, and permitting scholarly work be conducted over the summer, despite the coronavirus.

## **Further Information**

Contact Margaret Marr, Director for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, x71979, [Margaret.Marr@Bucknell.edu](mailto:Margaret.Marr@Bucknell.edu)

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