

The Ferguson Family Research Fund

The Objective

The Ferguson Family Research Fund is intended to provide mentorship to undergraduate students by graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences. Funds will be used to provide (1) stipends to undergraduate students while working on projects developed by graduate students and their faculty advisers, and (2) a limited amount of research supplies for the project. The goal of the fund is to enable undergraduate students to participate in a research environment, gaining valuable experience that can help them develop into practicing scientists. The hope is that a wide range of undergraduate students will participate in the program, and first-generation students are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications are initiated by graduate students and should include a project proposal that is approved by their major adviser (**due date = Feb. 1**). Undergraduate students will then apply to work on the projects that are funded (**due date = TBA**).

Budgets submitted by graduate students should describe how many undergraduate students they would like to mentor, keeping in mind that each undergraduate student will receive a stipend of \$1,000 per month. Students will work no less than 40 hours per month for each monthly stipend, and the 40 hours could be spread across a month or a week depending on the project's needs. The undergraduate student will receive the same stipend for each month as it is not an hourly wage. Multiple undergraduates may work on the same project at the same time with each receiving a stipend. The maximum amount awarded per grant is \$3,000, therefore a proposal could include, for example, funds for three students each working one month, or one student working multiple months. There are numerous combinations, and please note that funds for supplies would also count toward the maximum of \$3,000. We anticipate that the average funded proposal will be awarded ~\$2,500.

The Application Process

Graduate Student Applicants should supply the following in a single .doc or .pdf document (single-spaced, 12-point font):

- **Due date: February 1st.**
- Project Description: 1,000-word maximum + References (no limit);
- Timeline: 200-word maximum;
- Need for Research Assistant(s): 200-word maximum;
- Mentorship Plan: 200-word maximum,
(Please describe the ways in which you plan to instruct, supervise, and work with the undergraduate(s) in a way that will impart new skills to the student.);
- Budget and Justification for Research Supplies: 100-word maximum;
- Send application as a single document to biosci@humboldt.edu.

Undergraduate Student Applicants applying to work on funded projects should supply the following in a single .doc or .pdf document (single-spaced, 12-point font):

- Name of the funded project on which you would like to work;
- History of research experience (note that students who have little or no experience are encouraged to apply):

Please describe any experience you have in academic research. This may have been part of a class or assisting another student with their research, for example. It is perfectly fine if you do not have any research experience, and you can state that plainly. For example, you can write “I do not have any research experience.”;

- Justification: Describe how this experience will allow you to do something you wouldn't be able to do otherwise, or you wouldn't be able to do without creating significant financial hardship (use as much space as you need). How will this experience help you with your future plans?

Questions?

Contact Paul Bourdeau (peb112@humboldt.edu), Graduate Program Coordinator