The Research Assistant Fellowship program is designed to give students an opportunity to gain experience in their academic field by working as a Research Assistant on a faculty member's research project or on their own project under the close guidance of a faculty member. These Fellowships are intended to help prepare students to undertake their own future research projects and to provide supplemental financial assistance.

**Award**

Students are paid the Massachusetts minimum wage through the University’s Student Hourly Payroll system, and student hours are reported through their Faculty Sponsor’s department. Fellowships may be approved for up to $500 per semester.

PLEASE NOTE: Fellowships are one-time awards. Students who are awarded a fellowship are **not** automatically awarded additional fellowships in subsequent semesters. Students must follow the online application details for each semester they plan to apply.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be Commonwealth Honors College students in good academic standing (i.e., minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4).

Applications must be jointly submitted by students and their Faculty Sponsors. TAs and Grad students may **not** serve as Faculty Sponsors. For tips on finding a Faculty Sponsor visit [https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/facultysponsor/](https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/facultysponsor/).

Seniors and rising seniors are not eligible to apply.

**Criteria**

The student must initiate the application. The student’s application must include an essay of at least 300 words that describes what they hope to accomplish academically/personally through this fellowship. Students proposing their own project must also provide a project description.

Faculty Sponsor must upload a letter of endorsement and their CV, and provide a
Project description of at least 300-500 words (limit 700 total characters) discussing (1) the overall scope of the project and the student's role, (2) the academic experience the student will receive, (3) the amount and type of supervision the student will receive and (4) the approximate number of hours per week the student will spend on the project.

Checklist available at https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/fellowshipchecklist/.

**SELECTION**

The selection process is competitive. Independent Faculty Reviewers will evaluate each joint application and consider whether the student will be appropriately supervised and has the personal commitment to gain academically and become better prepared to undertake their own research in the future through this project and the mentoring of the Faculty Sponsor.

Students and their Faculty Sponsors will be notified of selection decisions before the start of the new semester.

**THE ONLINE APPLICATION IS OPEN. Log into CHC PATHS.** Students may begin preparing their application off-line following the criteria provided above.

Please note: Application information may be used for a press release.

**DEADLINES**

Online applications are accepted the last week of March for disbursement during the following fall, and in early October for disbursement during the spring.

The March deadline is for freshmen and sophomores applying for fall semester (when students will be sophomores and juniors). The October deadline is for sophomores and juniors applying for spring semester.

The **Faculty Sponsor deadline** is six days after the student application deadline. Faculty Sponsors must submit their supporting documents online to complete the application. Applications without the Faculty Sponsor's supporting documentation cannot be considered for funding.

*For additional information or questions, please contact:*

research@honors.umass.edu

**Description**

The Research Assistant Fellowship program is designed to give students an opportunity to gain experience in their academic field by working as a Research Assistant on a faculty member's research project or on their own project under the close guidance of a faculty member. These Fellowships are intended to help prepare students to undertake their own future research projects and to provide supplemental financial assistance.
Eligibility

Students must be in good academic standing (minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4) and an active member of Commonwealth Honors College. Seniors and rising seniors are not eligible to apply.

Requirements

See checklist: https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/fellowshipchecklist

How to Apply

Log into CHC PATHS.