Research Assistant Fellowships

Application Deadline: Mon, 04/04/2016

APPLICATIONS DUE:
STUDENTS: MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016 11:59 P.M.
FACULTY: FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016 11:59 P.M.

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

Student 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/.
CRITERIA

The student must initiate the application. The student’s application must include an essay of at least 300 words that describes what s/he hopes 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 7000 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.

INSTRUCTIONS

Student applicants must file an application using the CHC online Fellowship/Grant System (FGS).

When registering in FGS, students must use their 8-digit NUMERIC SPIRE ID.

Since applications may not be revised online, students and their Faculty Sponsors must communicate regarding revisions before the student submits their essay.

STUDENTS USE THIS LINK TO APPLY!
http://honorsapp.honors.umass.edu/FELLOWSHIP/Account/LogOn
IMPORTANT: Once a student submits their essay online, an automatic email will be forwarded to their Faculty Sponsor. Students should correspond with their Faculty Sponsor to be sure they use the correct email address in their application, otherwise the Faculty Sponsor will not receive notification.

Faculty Sponsors should follow instructions in that email to accept the student’s invitation. Faculty must then register (if they haven’t registered previously), log on to the FGS system, upload their endorsement letter and CV (as one file), and input their project description as described in Criteria above.

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

DEADLINES

Online applications are accepted in mid-April for disbursement during the following fall, and in early October for disbursement during the spring.

The April 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 three days after the student application deadline. Faculty Sponsors must submit their supporting documents online to complete the application.

For additional information or questions, please contact:
Research@honors.umass.edu

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