

# GUIDELINES FOR SURP PROPOSALS

Research and creative projects require not only dedication, planning, and a substantial time commitment, but also funding. Undergraduate researchers at UCI have the opportunity to submit proposals to request funding from programs sponsored or co-sponsored by UROP.

## Call for Proposals

The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) provides funding in support of students' time and effort during the summer. The SURP Call for Proposals is announced in the Winter Quarter of each year.

**The 2018 submission deadline is Monday, May 7,** and the application is on the UROP Web site. Proposals that do not require funding or are already receiving adequate funding from departmental or other sources may be submitted for an Honorary Fellowship.

SURP provides a maximum stipend of \$3,000 in support of students' time and effort over the summer. The program offers students the opportunity to become immersed in a research topic for a full-time ten-week period, or the equivalent of 400 hours. If a student needs less than the maximum stipend amount because s/he has other sources of funding, such as a Regent's Scholarship, s/he can indicate the amount on the Proposal Submission Form.

Proposals are evaluated based on the intellectual merit of the student's research, a complete application, the level of support from the faculty mentor, the student's transcript, and available funding. The UROP Faculty Advisory Board reviews the proposals and makes recommendations on funding. There is not a specific number of grants that need to be awarded each year; decisions are based entirely on the quality of the proposals and available funding. Note that students who receive a SURP grant **MUST** present their findings at the annual UCI Undergraduate Research Symposium held in May. We also invite students to submit their research findings to *The UCI Undergraduate Research Journal*.

## **Who is Eligible?**

To be eligible for a SURP grant, students must be undergraduates in good academic standing. Students must also have been involved in a faculty-mentored research project or creative activity for at least one quarter before the beginning of the Summer (Spring Quarter involvement is acceptable). Students who will

graduate within a quarter of submitting their proposal are not eligible to apply.

## **Team Projects**

Each undergraduate team member should submit a separate proposal, because potential awards involve individual stipends for each participant's time.

## **Contents of the Proposal**

The proposal should be prepared by the student applicant(s) and jointly submitted by the student(s) and his/her faculty mentor(s). Proposals should convince the reviewers of the significance of the project and need for funding. Typically a proposal is about five pages, but if needed, you can add further documentation, such as a survey that you are administering or data that you have collected. Submit your proposal online by entering information about you and your faculty mentor(s), and providing or uploading the following:

- The proposal, which includes a thesis, purpose, objective, and approach; the student's specific responsibility; the project's timeline; and list of works cited.
- A personal statement for the student applicant.
- The appropriate IRB or IACUC protocol number, if the research involves human subjects or the use of live vertebrate animals.

A confirmation e-mail is sent to the undergraduate researcher and faculty mentor(s) once the submission has been received. This confirmation provides secure links that allow the student and mentor(s) to access and update the submission. In addition, faculty mentors are asked to upload a letter of recommendation per project.

## The Research Proposal

Proposals should answer these questions:

- Why am I doing this project? What issues/problems/questions will I explore and answer?
- Is my topic too broad or narrow to manage?

- ❑ What are my goals for the project? How will I get there? What do I hope to realize as a result of my efforts?
- ❑ Are there sufficient sources for me to use in my project?
- ❑ Will I be dedicating the time needed to complete the project within the timeline proposed?

You can see past proposals that have been accepted for funding on the UROP Web site ([www.urop.uci.edu](http://www.urop.uci.edu)).

### **Thesis, Purpose, Objective, & Approach**

You will likely start your project by asking a rudimentary research question. In a sense, your thesis statement is your answer to the central question or problem you have raised. Writing this statement will enable you to see where you are heading and to remain on a productive path as you plan and write. Beginning your proposal with your thesis statement frames everything that follows.

This section should also describe your purpose—what your topic is—with a clear research question, and why this topic is unique or important to your field. Make sure you clearly state the significance of your research to your field, and to the general public. Describe the objective by telling what you have completed in your project, what you will be accomplishing, and its intended outcome. Illustrate your methods and demonstrate the feasibility of the project as well. Support your research with details, and express any practical concerns and/or difficulties you may incur and how you will overcome them.

### **Responsibility**

Describe your specific duties for the project. If it is a group project, describe the responsibilities of each group member. Explain how you will interact with your faculty mentor during the course of the research. Discuss any collaboration you may have with other research personnel involved in your project.

### **Timeline**

Produce a schedule of activities for your research. Be sure to give yourself plenty of extra time in your timetable in case some activities take longer than predicted. Most applicants' schedules list tasks by week or month.

### **References**

List books, articles, and any other outside sources that were used in preparing your proposal or that have

contributed to your expanded knowledge about your area of research. These references help establish why your research is essential to the field and add credibility to your proposal by showing that you have done the research necessary to carry out your project.

### **Personal Statement**

This tells the evaluators who you are, why you want to pursue this research, and what impact you expect this experience to have on your future career. Include your research background and describe how it might have influenced your education. You should also explain what you have accomplished so far in the field you are researching, including relevant classes that you have taken, and how this opportunity will help you realize your goals. Also include why you chose this topic for your research project and why you should receive funding. A personal statement can also elaborate on information you normally include in your resume. For a team project, each undergraduate researcher must write a personal statement. With your permission, we will download a copy of your transcript; you do not need to provide that to us.

### **Letter of Support**

This is written by your faculty mentor(s) and is an evaluation of your performance and capacity to complete the proposed activities. We will request your letter of support from your faculty mentor(s) after you submit your proposal.

### **Research Conduct Rules**

If your project involves human and/or animal subjects, you must provide the appropriate IRB or IACUC protocol number approving your study. The IRB or IACUC approval must be obtained at the beginning of your project. If a protocol that includes your name has been submitted for review to the appropriate IRB or IACUC committee, but a protocol number has not been provided, then please indicate "pending." Visit the UCI Office of Research Administration Web site ([www.research.uci.edu/ora/](http://www.research.uci.edu/ora/)) for more information.

### **Additional Research Funding**

In addition to the SURP Fellowships, UROP administers or co-sponsors several additional programs that support UCI undergraduates' time and effort in conducting a faculty-mentored research project or creative activity during the summer. These programs, which include E-SURP, and SURF-IoT, are described on the UROP Web site.

Students wishing to improve their chances for funding may apply for more than one summer program. No student, however, will receive an award from more than one of these programs. Student researchers who need funding for supplies for a summer project can also submit a proposal for the UROP Fall or Spring Call for Proposals.

### **Workshops and Deadlines**

#### **Proposal Writing Workshop**

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 3–5 PM  
Calit2 Auditorium

#### **SURP Call for Proposals**

Deadline: Monday, May 7, 2018

### **Related Deadlines and Workshops**

#### **UROP Proposal Writing Workshops**

Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 3–5 PM  
Calit2 Auditorium

#### **UROP Fall Call for Proposals**

Deadline: Monday, November 13, 2017

#### **UROP Spring Call for Proposals**

Deadline: Monday, May 7, 2018

#### **E-SURP Call for Proposals**

Deadline: Monday, May 7, 2018

#### **SURF-IoT Call for Proposals**

Deadline: Monday, May 7, 2018

### **Contact Information**

#### **Edwards Lifesciences Center**

2400 Engineering Hall  
Irvine, CA 92697-2730  
Phone: (949) 824-0071  
E-mail: [cardio@uci.edu](mailto:cardio@uci.edu)

#### **UROP**

Student Services II, Suite 2100  
Irvine, CA 92697-5685  
Phone: (949) 824-4189  
E-mail: [urop@uci.edu](mailto:urop@uci.edu)