



Undergraduate
Research
INITIATIVE

URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend Tip Sheet for Applicants

The Undergraduate Researcher Stipend provides funding (\$5000 for 4-12 months) to students interested in carrying out **mentored** research projects or creative activities. This stipend allows students to enrich their university experience through hands-on discovery and skill development in a research-intensive university. Priority is given to **interdisciplinary work**.

Student eligibility

- ✓ Enrolled full-time or part-time in a University of Alberta undergraduate program at the time of application. Students completing their final semester may apply, provided they are not entering a graduate program during the term of their award.
- ✓ Students in any year of study and any program may apply. International students are welcome to apply provided their study/work permit allows them to work on campus and is valid for the duration of the award.
- ✓ Satisfactory academic standing prior to the start of the project. **GPA is not used as an adjudication criterion for the URI Stipend.**
- ✓ Have a confirmed supervisor prior to application. The supervisor may be a faculty member, staff, graduate student, or community member. If the primary supervisor is NOT a U of A faculty member, a faculty member sponsor is also required for the application.

Deadlines:

There are two application cycles for the URI Stipend each year:

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

11:59 p.m.

**for projects beginning in May or
September 2017**

Monday, October 30, 2017

11:59 p.m.

**for projects beginning in
January 2018**

Questions? Please contact:

www.uri.ualberta.ca

uri@ualberta.ca

780-248-1933



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Application Tips

1. Make your application accessible!

The URI Stipend is adjudicated by a multi-disciplinary committee of faculty and undergraduate students. Applications **MUST** be written in language accessible to readers from other disciplines.

2. Students must write the proposal

Students should discuss the proposal with their supervisor and consult the supervisor for feedback while writing the application, but the application **must be written by the student**. Supervisors should not write the proposal on behalf of the student.

3. Consult the program guide and rubric

Be sure that you address all of the adjudication criteria and answer the questions in the application completely. The adjudication rubric is provided in the program guide to assist applicants in addressing the criteria.

4. Make sure the research question is clearly defined.

Be explicit about defining your research question. The adjudicators must be able to clearly understand your the underlying question or hypothesis in order to evaluate the validity of your methods, feasibility, and merit of your project.

5. Explain how the research is interdisciplinary

The URI Stipend prioritizes interdisciplinary research. A project could be interdisciplinary in a variety of ways (e.g. drawing on methods or theories from other disciplines, working within an interdisciplinary team, or solving a problem that benefits other disciplines). The adjudicators are assessing how well the student is able to understand and articulate the ways in which their research is interdisciplinary, and why an interdisciplinary approach is needed.

6. Be specific about your skill development

Avoid being generic in your skill development (e.g. "I will learn lab skills and communication skills.") Explain what specific skills you hope to learn by undertaking this research, how this builds on your previous experience (or provides a new opportunity for development), and how this experience will advance your personal and professional development.

7. Supervisors: Don't copy and paste responses for multiple students

The supervisor's statement should be tailored for each student. If you have applied in the past, or are applying with multiple students, please do not copy and paste responses for multiple applications.

8. Get feedback!

The URI offers individual consultations with URI Stipend applicants to provide feedback on your application — contact our office to arrange an appointment.