Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards

About The Program

The Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards are a one-time competitive award made by the Office of Undergraduate Education, designed to reward the contributions and facilitate the professional development of undergraduate researchers at UT Dallas.

Students selected to receive an Undergraduate Research Scholar Award receive $500, awarded upon participation in the Undergraduate Research Scholar Award poster competition held in mid-April. Faculty research sponsors supporting participant projects receive $300 (for supplies, project travel, poster printing, etc.). Students whose research, posters, and presentations are deemed to be exceptional will move on to the poster finals competition, held one week later. Judges from the external research community will appraise the top presentations; the top three winners will receive additional award money.

Eligibility

In order for a submission to receive consideration for an Undergraduate Research Scholar Award, the student must meet certain eligibility requirements. Student applicants must be:

- Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking UT Dallas undergraduate researchers
- Enrolled in a UT Dallas undergraduate program through the Spring semester
- Contributing to an existing research project, under the supervision of a faculty principal investigator OR acting as an independent principal investigator under the guidance of a faculty research mentor
- Able to create a research poster encapsulating the project and present results at the virtual Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards poster contest event in mid-April. Semifinalists selected during the poster contest must present their posters and results to corporate judges and compete for cash prizes at the Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards poster finals event, held in late-April.

How To Apply

The Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards is not currently accepting submissions. Below you can see more information on how the application process does work when open for application.

Applications for the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards are open on the application portal.

Application FAQs

Which type of research topics are eligible for an Undergraduate Research Scholar Award?
There are no restrictions on the nature of the research – it can be in any field. However, the research must be on a serious, credible topic of inquiry, and there must be a faculty supervisor (principal investigator or research mentor) for the project.

**May I submit an application for a project that has already been completed?**

The purpose of URSA is to fund ongoing research projects, so no already-completed projects will be funded.

**What should be included in my application description?**

You should focus on the goals of your research and how you plan to achieve those goals. If your research is part of a larger project, you need to make it clear what your piece of that project is.

**My application has special symbols that don't work in the text box. What should I do?**

You can attach a .pdf with your project description. Type "Please see the attached" in the text box and attach your application.

**When will I know if I will receive an Undergraduate Research Scholar Award?**

The Office of Undergraduate Education will notify applicants of their status by mid-January of 2022.

**How will my poster be judged?**

At the Poster Contest in April, faculty judges evaluate the effectiveness of the poster in presenting the research as well as the overall quality of the research conducted. At the Poster Finals a week later, corporate judges from area companies evaluate the posters along similar lines, with an added emphasis on applicability.
Program Timeline

- December 12, 2021 — Deadline to Submit Application
- Mid-January — Applicants Informed of Final Selections
- Late February — How to Design a Research Poster event
- Late March — Poster Practice Session
- April — Poster Contest event
- Mid-April — Poster Finals Event

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