Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards

Applications for the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards are being accepted through December 3. Apply via the Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards Proposal Submission Portal.

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 2021. 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.

Due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University of Texas at Dallas research environment, proposals for the following types of research projects will receive consideration for 2020-2021:

- Projects involving on-site lab access
- Projects involving remote execution, such as computational, literature review, or data analysis

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 2021 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 2021. 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 2021.
How To Apply

Students applying for the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards may do so using the online submission portal here: https://utdallas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Wqriemtm0U5did.

The deadline to submit a proposal is December 3, 2020. Faculty sponsors must approve proposed projects by December 6, 2020.

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.

• **Is the Undergraduate Research Scholar Award program open to students who are not able to research on campus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**
  
  Yes. Students may submit a proposal for projects conducted on-site and remotely.

• **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 2021.

• **How do I print my poster for the poster contest?**
  
  Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards poster contest will be conducted virtually in April of 2021. Recipients are required to provide an
electronic file of their poster submission, along with a recorded video of their poster presentation.

- **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 3, 2020** — Deadline to Submit Application
- **Mid-January, 2021** — Applicants Informed of Final Selections
- **Late February, 2021** — How to Design a Research Poster event
- **Late March, 2021** — Poster Practice Session
- **April, 2021** — Poster Contest event
• Mid-April, 2021 — Poster Finals Event

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