Introduction
The University of Iowa strives to provide a high-quality educational experience for its students. Participation in research, creative, and scholarly activities represents an opportunity, uniquely available at research universities, and enhance the overall undergraduate experience. The Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) Research Fellows Program encourages the direct involvement of undergraduate students in the scholarly efforts of our institution by providing financial support for a student involved in research or creative work.

Objectives
Faculty and staff members in all disciplines are encouraged to involve undergraduates in their research and creative projects. Applications that seek to involve students in intellectual and scholarly work, experimental and laboratory-based research, and/or creative work in the arts are eligible. Projects that fully engage the student in the process, from contemplation of the work, through analysis and presentation of results, are of most interest. Work that can lead to an honors thesis, publication, exhibition, performance, or other forms of recognition for the student is encouraged and is given high priority. Applications that involve a student in only a limited aspect of a project, such as retrieving references or assaying samples, will not receive priority but may be funded. Regular opportunities for the student to interact with and be mentored by the sponsoring faculty or staff member are crucial in all cases.

Award
The ICRU Research Fellows program is a student support award and is disbursed as a scholarship directly to the student. It is not meant as a prize, honor, or reward for work already completed, but rather to facilitate that student’s participation in the work. No supply money is available for this award. Students are awarded $2,000 for academic year and work a suggested 10 hours per week. Students are awarded $2,500 for the summer and work a suggested 20 hours per week. Applications for academic year and summer awards are separate – one application will not suffice for both opportunities.

Eligibility
All Faculty and Professional and Scientific Staff are eligible to apply with an undergraduate for this program, including those who have supported student(s) as Fellows in previous semesters.

- Only University of Iowa undergraduates registered as full-time, degree seeking students with at least a 3.0 GPA may be supported through these awards.
- Only one application per faculty/staff member per academic year or summer will be considered for the full monetary amount, and students may only be supported by one award per semester. In some cases, students may split the monetary award and multiple students can be supported per mentor. However, it is important to see the details about splitting awards here before deciding on this option.
- Please note - this award is for a specific faculty/staff member to work on a specific project with a specific student. If either the student or faculty/staff member is not able or willing to continue with the proposed project, the award will be forfeited.
Application Guidelines

1. All applications and materials must be submitted by the faculty/staff mentor via the online application form found on the ICRU website.
2. All parts of the application should be written for an audience of professionals, but who are outside of the investigator's field of study.
3. Responses should be kept to the maximum number of words indicated. Text that exceeds the limit will not be included in the review.
4. All application materials must be submitted in one session. It is advisable that the application questions, as detailed below, be completed in a separate document/program then cut and pasted into the text boxes provided in the web form (both for ease of submission and so that responses will be saved for the submitter’s records).

To be prepared by the Faculty/Staff Mentor:

1. Faculty/Staff Mentor and Student Information
   • Mentor will need to know the student’s 8-digit University ID number, university email address, major department, and anticipated graduation year.

2. Project title and abstract (max. 300 words)

3. Highlight your experience as a mentor of undergraduate research (max. 200 words)

4. Student Recruitment and Selection (max. 300 words)
   • Identify the specific student to be supported as an ICRU Fellow.
   • How/why was this specific student selected for the project?
   • How will the involvement benefit the student; this may include the opportunity to graduate with honors and preparation for graduate or professional work?

5. Form and Nature of Student Involvement (max. 300 words)
   • Describe the work that the student will perform.
   • Describe the level of the student’s involvement in the overall project; how will the student be integrated into all aspects of the work.
   • What interaction will the student have with the faculty/staff mentor and any other project personnel?
   • Provide a timeline for the work, showing as appropriate the student’s preparation, involvement, and follow-up activities.

To be prepared by the Student (single-spaced PDF document. Max. 500 words. To be submitted via the online form by the mentor):

6. The student narrative should address the larger question of why you want to participate.
   • What interests you about this research/creative work?
   • What are your current academic/career goals? How might your involvement in this work help you to further these goals?
**Review Criteria**

The peer review of proposals will assess the:

- Existence of a suitable context for involvement of an undergraduate in the research/creative project or scholarly activity.
- Prospects for a meaningful student experience, both in the research/creative work and the mentorship.
- The quality of the student narrative.
- Upon completion of its review, the committee will submit recommendations to the director and assistant director Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates, who will make final award decisions.

**Accepting the Award and Reporting Requirements:**

- Prior to funding being disbursed, mentors and students must complete a research agreement form which will outline the expectations of both the student and mentor. More information will be provided if the proposal is selected for funding.
- Students who are supported as ICRU Research Fellows are required to complete one or more questionnaires sent to them by the ICRU office. These questionnaires will assess their experience as an ICRU Research Fellow and are considered part of the funding agreement.
- ICRU Research Fellows are required to present their work at either the Fall or Spring Undergraduate Research Festival (or both). Students are also invited to apply for the Research in the Capitol event held in mid-spring each year. More information about these presentation opportunities is available on the ICRU website.
- ICRU Research Fellows are required to participate in a research mentee training program during the summer or semester in which they are funded.

**Questions?**

Please contact ICRU

- icru@uiowa.edu
- 319-335-8336
- ICRU website