Call for Proposals

2019 Provost Undergraduate Research and Innovation (URI) Summer Fellowship Program

Online Proposal Submission Deadline: March 29, 2019


Undergraduate research provides students a unique opportunity to learn necessary and important skills to research and innovate towards taking a leadership role in the society. As a student-centered research institution, NJIT is committed to providing opportunities for research participation beginning at the undergraduate level. NJIT Provost Undergraduate Research and Innovation (URI) Summer Fellowship program provides summer stipend support to undergraduate students from all disciplines to pursue research under the guidance of a faculty advisor on a competitive basis. Eligible undergraduate students should apply online with their proposals following the instructions provided below.

The deadline for the student online application and research proposal submission is March 29, 2019. The faculty “Letter of Support” must be submitted online HERE by 11:59 p.m. EST on March 29, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY: Any current NJIT student who will be enrolled as an undergraduate in the Fall 2019 semester may apply.

AWARDS: The summer fellowship award amount is $3000. Please be aware that this award requires full-time participation by the student for a period of ten weeks during summer 2019. Students should not be engaged in outside employment or coursework during this period. All students are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program and fill-out the time-sheet for hours of work with their respective advisors. The program runs from May 28 to August 2, 2019. Finally, all award winners are required to participate in the NJIT International Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium on August 1, 2019.

NOTES FOR FACULTY: Prospective faculty advisors are expected to write a letter of support. Letters of support must include advisor’s opinion of the student and must place the proposed research project in the context of any ongoing research. The following questions should be addressed in the letter of support:

Is this a new project or part of an ongoing investigation? Will this project spawn additional work that extends beyond the summer? What primary benefits will this project have for both the student and advisor?
Faculty advisors who are writing support letters for more than one student applicant must rank the proposals, indicating which projects they would most like to see funded. This process will not preclude lower ranked students from being accepted, but the advisor’s insight about each student/project is useful information for the review committee to take into consideration.

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS:** Please adhere to the following organizational guidelines when writing your research proposal. Keep in mind that the members of the review committee are not necessarily experts in your field. Research proposals are expected to be written by the student with input from the faculty advisor.

In particular, any successful proposal will demonstrate:

- Clear statement of research problem
- Significance and originality of the approach
- Logical project design and clear methodology
- Expected outcomes and deliverables

**ALL PROPOSALS MUST BEGIN WITH AN ABSTRACT OF 200 WORDS OR LESS.** The recommended proposal length is **3 pages with single-space, 12-point font and 1 inch margin all sides format.** (The abstract and bibliographic references are not included in the 3-page limit.)

**Cover Sheet (Online application form)**

[Click here for the online application form](sign in with NJIT webmail account)

**Abstract (200 words or less):** Concisely state the specific aim of your project. What are the specific questions you seek to answer? What are your specific goals and objectives for the summer? This is not included in the 3-page proposal length limit.

**Background:** Clearly and logically lay out the problem or question that you will attempt to answer. Provide sufficient background to help the general reader understand your project. You must describe your project in language accessible to a general audience. What is known and not known in this area of research? What outcomes do you hope to achieve? Provide citations from the relevant literature.

**Significance:** Explicitly and clearly explain why this problem is important. How important is it to find a solution to this problem? Who will find this work interesting? What makes this project and research novel?

**Project Design:** As specifically as possible, describe how you will attack your problem, using language accessible to the general audience and not going into highly technical detail. While it is true that research often goes in unforeseen directions, success in a 10-week summer project requires a very high level of focus. The clearer your goals, the more likely you are to have a productive experience.
It is important that you indicate the ways in which you as a student will make an independent or creative contribution. If your work requires compliance with published university research policies e.g., work with human subjects, animals, hazardous material, etc., please explain what steps you will take to obtain the required approval.

**Expected Outcomes and Deliverable:** Please explain the expected outcomes from the proposed research project. How would you demonstrate that the specific goals and objectives of the summer research are met? Provide a clear description of the deliverables.

**Bibliography:** Provide any relevant references and bibliography that is used in the proposal. The bibliography should be on a separate page that is not included in the 3-page proposal length limit.

**Mentoring and Engaging a High School Student:** Faculty advisors and undergraduate students are highly encouraged to involve and mentor a high-school student on the project during the summer project period.

For additional information, please visit the URI website [http://centers.njit.edu/uri/programs/provost-fellowship.php](http://centers.njit.edu/uri/programs/provost-fellowship.php). Any questions should be directed to Ms. Angela Retino, Undergraduate Research and Innovation Programs Coordinator at aretino@njit.edu.