



## **UHP Awards for Creative and Research Projects: A Call for Proposals**

### **Introduction**

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The University Honors Program (UHP) invites UHP students to submit proposals for its annual competition for UHP Awards for Creative and Research Projects. The purpose of these awards is to give undergraduate students the opportunity to work one-on-one with faculty members on innovative projects. Awards granted in this competition may be used in Summer 2009, Fall 2009, or Spring 2010 (awards granted for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 are subject to the availability of funds in the new fiscal year). In special circumstances, awards may be made for Spring 2009. The highest priority will go to summer awards that involve students working with NC State faculty members.

In addition to the open competition, which only occurs once a year, the UHP will also consider applications at any time for special UHP Awards for Creative and Research Projects to fund specific research activities or needs or to enable a student to take advantage of a unique research-based opportunity. Please note that these special requests must be for specific needs and opportunities, not for general exploratory research awards such as are being made in the annual competition. Students should contact the UHP Director, Dr. R.L. Blanton ([larry\\_blanton@ncsu.edu](mailto:larry_blanton@ncsu.edu)) for more details.

### **The Award**

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UHP Awards for Creative and Research Projects provide up to \$2,000 to the student and \$500 to the faculty sponsor (if on the NC State campus). An important part of the proposal is the budget and its justification. Students may request funds as a stipend to provide themselves with living expenses. Or, they may request funds that will be used directly for their research project (e.g., user fees on a research instrument, a piece of essential equipment for a project, consumable supplies, travel to field research sites, etc.) Or, they may request a combination of the two. Priority will go to requests for stipendiary support for summer research activities under the supervision of NC State faculty members. When justifying stipendiary support, the student should be aware of the following contact hour guidelines for project effort:

- Full-time effort is a six-week summer experience at 40 hours per week.
- Half-time effort is a twelve-week summer or regular academic semester experience at 20 hours per week.

The application must include an itemized budget. General categories such as "Research supplies" can be used, but any equipment or travel costs should provide additional details. In addition to the itemized budget, a narrative budget justification should be included that states the purpose of each budget line (the before-mentioned "Research supplies" would need some explanation here) and the basis for its calculation.

Awarded funds must be used for their stated purposes and must be spent according to procedures that will be explained to the awardee. Unexpended funds must be returned to the UHP (unfunded project extensions may be requested). Budget supplements are not possible, although a student could apply under the special UHP Awards and Creative Research Projects for a specific item or opportunity or could submit another proposal in the next competition.

Students should be aware that in most cases the awarded funds are transferred to them through their NC State student account. If a student is supported by certain kinds of financial aid, this arrangement may impact that aid if the student is using the award funds for stipendiary support. This is all explained again to awardees, but applicants need to be aware of this so they can plan their proposed award period accordingly. This is another reason why stipends are best left to the summer.

For projects occurring on the NC State campus, faculty sponsors may apply for funding up to an additional \$500 to aid in the successful completion of this creative or research experience. Awards for study abroad research projects do not provide these funds to faculty sponsors. Many faculty sponsors waive their access to these funds, or request that the UHP apply the funds instead to the support of the student's research project. Further details concerning the faculty funds are made available as part of the award acceptance process.

## **Eligibility**

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All UHP participants who are in good standing and who will still be undergraduates at the time of the project being carried-out are eligible. ["Good standing" means a G.P.A. of 3.25 or above; not being on UHP probation; and having satisfied relevant reporting and program continuation deadlines.] Priority will be given to students who have not had prior research awards from the UHP or the NC State Office of Undergraduate Research. Awards for study abroad research projects have lower priority than those for on-campus research. All students **must** have the commitment (and signature) of a faculty sponsor for their research. All recipients must commit to presenting the results of their research at a public research presentation (this could be at a meeting of a scholarly society or at an undergraduate research symposium on campus or elsewhere).

## **Application Process**

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Students should read the [Creating a Creative/Research Project Proposal](#) document before completing the Proposal Cover Page and writing a proposal of no more than four (4) pages that describes the creative or research project and provides the other information requested on the proposal cover page form. We encourage students to work with their faculty sponsors to create a strong and persuasive proposal. The faculty sponsor must sign the [Proposal Cover Page](#) as an indication of his/her willingness to serve as the official project sponsor should the project be funded.

A committee of NCSU faculty members will review all proposals and recommend award recipients. The UHP Director will announce the award on or before March 25, 2009 (earlier for Spring 2009 awards).

## **Criteria For Selection**

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A strong and persuasive proposal will go beyond simply describing the creative or research experience; in particular, the selection committee will look for proposals that provide clear and specific

- Demonstration of a scholarly approach to project completion;
- Evidence of understanding the project and, when appropriate, how its results will be used; and
- Appreciation for the value of research, the creative process, and the creation of new knowledge.
- Appropriateness of budget.

All awards, of course, are subject to the availability of funds at the time of the start of the proposed project.

## **Deadline**

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Creative/Research Proposals for awards to be used in Summer, 2009, Fall, 2009, or Spring 2010 are due at the UHP Office, 219 Clark Hall, by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Requests for awards to be used in Spring 2009 should be submitted by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Late applications will be accepted, but will be marked as late and will receive lower priority. For further information, contact the UHP Director, Dr. Richard L. Blanton ([larry\\_blanton@ncsu.edu](mailto:larry_blanton@ncsu.edu)).