



College of Veterinary Medicine
UtahStateUniversity

**Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary
Sciences Department**

November 30, 2022

Dear USU DVM Students,

The USU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is soliciting applications for the 2023 Veterinary Summer Research Fellowship Program. This program provides fellowship stipends to support student involvement in USU-CVM, WSU-CVM, and USDA-PPRL research activities. Please review the details provided on the subsequent pages of this letter for more information. We certainly hope you will consider applying to this program and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The USU CVM Student Research Steering Committee

Dr. Jeff Mason (chair)
Dr. Kara Thornton-Kurth
Dr. Shawn Zimmerman

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be 1st or 2nd year veterinary students but may not be enrolled in a graduate degree program. Students that have received prior internship are eligible for a second year of research.
- Student applicants must not be on academic probation. Prior to applying, please check with the Office of Student Services to verify your status. Although an absolute class rank minimum is not established, please be aware the class rank may influence the competitiveness of your application.

Stipulations upon award:

- **The application due date is February 3, 2023, by 5:00 PM MST** (see further details below).
- Students are expected to commit 12 weeks during the summer to their research project. This leaves four weeks for vacation or other activities. The work period is May 16 – Aug. 15, 2023.
- Successful applicants will be expected to commit to an intensive, full-time work schedule on their approved research project during the summer months, although the amount of time required, and the schedule of activities will ultimately be determined by your mentor.
- Applicants who wish to enroll in additional summer coursework or engage in additional summer employment must gain approval from their mentor (also called “sponsor”) and the Program Coordinator of Academic and Student Affairs office (cara.allen@usu.edu) before applying for the summer fellowship.
- Successful applicants must complete all required training; namely, (1) all mandatory USU laboratory safety training, (2) all lab specific training as directed by the sponsor (e.g., PI, mentor), and (3) the CITI “Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Curriculum.” Note, you must pass each module with a score of 80% or higher. Detailed instructions will be sent out regarding these requirements upon invitation and acceptance to the program.
- Students who receive summer research fellowships must also agree to: (1) participate in the summer research trainee workshop series hosted by Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS), (2) agree to present a poster describing their project and its results at the ADVS Department Research Symposium in early August, and (3) submit a progress or final summary report by mid-August.
- Each fellowship recipient will be required to sign a letter that stipulates they understand and agree to the above requirements and that failure to meet these requirements will result in stipend funds being withheld and/or repaid to the CVM.

Review criteria:

Applications will be judged competitively by the SVM Research Committee. Criteria include: (1) scientific merit of the research proposal, (2) grantsmanship of the proposal regarding its overall clarity, logic, and feasibility, (3) perceived level of student participation in preparation of the application, (4) faculty mentor research environment and commitment to the project (e.g. does the mentor have a strong record of research in the area of the application as evidenced by publications and/or extramural funding), and (5) perceived level of student professionalism and commitment to execution of the proposed project and to scientific exploration in general.

If you have any questions, including the appropriateness of your research topic, please email the chair of the CVM Student Research Steering Committee, Dr. Jeff Mason (jeff.mason@usu.edu).

Funding:

Funding for the Summer Research Fellowship program is provided via the USU School of Veterinary Medicine. Awards from these sources are made contingent upon the faculty mentor agreeing to provide material support for the project. Specifically, the award will provide **\$6,000** to cover the student’s stipend. Awardees should know that this support will be subject to all applicable federal and state taxes or other applicable withholding. Historically, we have been able to fund 4-6 awards per year. However, the actual number of awards is always subject to change due to funding uncertainties or the identification of additional funding sources (e.g., available grant support from the sponsoring faculty member).

Selecting a mentor:

All USU-CVM, WSU-CVM and USDA-PPRL faculty are eligible to sponsor students as advisors for summer research Fellows. Sponsors from other departments or organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

When selecting a mentor, you should speak with him/her to learn about their research and to request reprints and related materials to help identify labs with which you share interests. Determine the level of interest from the prospective mentor. It is appropriate to determine if the potential mentor has sufficient resources to support your efforts even if you do not receive a fellowship. This is important, because in some years the number of worthy applications exceeds the number of available summer fellowship funds. To learn more about faculty research interests, please see the following links:

- Summer Research Program for Veterinary Students (start your search for info here)
<https://vetmed.usu.edu/internships> (insert correct link here!!!)
- USU Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences
<https://caas.usu.edu/advs/directory>
- USDA Poisonous Plants Research Laboratory
<https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/logan-ut/poisonous-plant-research/careers/>
- Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health
<https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/paul-g-allen-school-for-global-health/>
- WSU School of Molecular Biosciences
<https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/school-of-molecular-biosciences>
- WSU Department of Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience
<https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/integrative-physiology-and-neuroscience/>
- WSU Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
<https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/veterinary-clinical-sciences>
- WSU Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology
<https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/veterinary-microbiology-and-pathology/>

Required application materials:

1. Cover page:

“APPLICATION FOR VETERINARY STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH STIPEND” must be clearly indicated at the top of the page. The title page should also prominently display the project title, name of faculty sponsor, student name, and class year of the student applicant.

2. Project Description:

Up to 5 typed pages. Please use 11 pt Arial font, 1-inch margins, 1.5-line spacing, and page numbers. The bibliography (literature cited) and progress report are not included in the 5-page limit. The text must be prepared by the student with assistance from the faculty sponsor. Remember that clarity and logic are important criteria used for evaluating the proposals (see below). The student’s role on the project needs to be explicitly defined including which experiments the student will complete. If the proposed work is part of a larger ongoing project, it must be clearly stated exactly what the student will be doing over the summer and what they plan to present at the fall research symposium.

The following sections must be included in the project description:

Summary (~250 words)

Briefly summarize the research problem being investigated, the significance of the problem, the hypothesis to be tested, the specific objectives that will test the hypothesis, the approach to be used, and the expected

outcome. (It is recommended that this section should be written last to ensure it is consistent with the rest of the application and to avoid excessive rewrites.)

Background (1 page)

Describe the research problem being investigated with enough background information (including literature references) such that a person unfamiliar with the field can understand the importance and rationale for the work being proposed. Identify the specific gaps in knowledge that need to be understood in order for the field to advance.

Significance (1/2 page)

Provide justification regarding the importance of the problem being investigated as it pertains to animal and/or human health.

Hypothesis (1 sentence)

State the specific hypothesis that will be tested by the proposed work.

Specific Objective/s (1 sentence per objective)

List the specific objective/s of the proposed work that will test the hypothesis under consideration.

Approach (2 pages)

Briefly describe the proposed studies including the rationale for the study (how does each experiment address the specific hypothesis), the experimental methods that will be used, and how the data will be analyzed. As needed, include justification for the sample size, describe the statistical methods used to compare groups, and the criteria that will be used to confirm that the hypothesis is confirmed or rejected. Also include an assessment of the potential problems that might be encountered and any strategies that could be used to overcome those problems. Provide a timeline to establish feasibility for completion of the proposed work within the summertime-frame.

Outcome (1/2 page)

Briefly state what results you are expecting to find and speculate on what would be done next if the hypothesis is confirmed OR if the hypothesis is rejected.

Progress report (1-2 pages, not included in 5-page limit)

If applying for a subsequent year of funding, provide a detailed summary of the previous year's work including any study successes/failures and project-related training opportunities. Be sure to indicate if/where/when you presented your work, if you have planned or accepted publications related to that work, or if patents related to your work are expected. Also, be sure to indicate if your previous work relates to the currently proposed project or is new.

References (no limit; less than one page recommended, not included in 5-page limit)

Provide sufficient references to support statements made in the application and enable reviewers to understand the problem being addressed.

3. Letter from student applicant:

One-page letter signed by the applicant describing the anticipated benefits of this research experience, with emphasis on the importance of the proposed mentored research experience to their future career development. Please use 11 pt Arial font, 1-inch margins, 1.5- to 2-line spacing.

4. Faculty sponsor's statement:

One-page letter signed by the faculty mentor that provides the information listed below. Please use 11 pt Arial font, 1-inch margins, 1.5-line spacing.

- a. Brief description of the role of the student in the proposed work, including the design of the project, the writing of the proposal, the conduct of the study, analysis of results, and writing of any project required documents (e.g., presentations, posters, progress/final reports, and/or anticipated publications).
- b. A statement verifying the student is not currently on academic probation.
- c. Indicate the source and sufficiency of funds for the proposed research (exclusive of the student stipend funds). Stipends will not be awarded if the funds needed for the research itself are not already in place at the time of the application. If funding is from departmental sources, the mentor's letter must be co-signed by the department head.
- d. If the study involves the use of live animals, the mentor should indicate the status of the IACUC approval.

How to submit your application:

Combine all of the above required elements of your application, including the applicant and mentor letters, into a single electronic PDF file and name the file as follows: "lastname_firstname_VSRFP_2023." This file must be submitted via a Qualtrics link https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40jvqbAxnva5htk by **5:00 PM MST on Friday, February 3, 2023**. You will receive written notification of the disposition of your application by no later than the end of March 2023.