

VCU SOM Dean's Summer Research Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the timeframe for the application cycle?

Applications are accepted from late January to late February. The review process is completed in March/April and students are notified in April/May. Check the SOM Research website for this year's deadline.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the fellowship?

Fellowship is limited to current first-year VCU medical students. Other students are not eligible to apply.

3. How can I apply for the fellowship?

Applications are accepted through online submission in late January/February. Exact dates and submission deadlines are communicated to eligible students each year. A link to the online submission and other information can be found on the SOM website (<https://medschool.vcu.edu/research/>). Scroll down to the section titled "Medical Students".

4. Can I submit multiple projects for consideration?

No. A student may submit only one project for consideration for the fellowship.

5. Who can serve as a research mentor?

Any VCU faculty member working on health-related research can be a mentor for summer fellowship. Faculty members with primary appointments at the VA hospital and having VCU affiliation are eligible also to mentor students.

6. Is there a list of potential faculty mentors that I can use?

Yes, there is a list of some faculty members on the SOM research website who have expressed an interest in serving as mentors. However, there are many additional faculty members who can be excellent mentors but are not listed on the sheet. Students are encouraged to broaden their mentor searches beyond this list.

7. Will I get paid during the fellowship?

Yes. All fellowship awardees receive a stipend of \$2500. In addition, there are prizes for the best proposal and best research presentations.

8. How long will I need to do research?

Two months. Typically, from mid-June to Mid-August, between the years M1 and M2.

9. Can I use a project I am already working on to apply for the Dean's fellowship?

Existing research projects are eligible for the Dean's fellowship. However, the student must work full time during the summer to conduct new experiments/collect or analyze data. Experiments previously completed can not be used to apply for the fellowship.

10. Can data science projects be used to apply for the fellowship?

Yes. Data science projects related to human health and analysis of charts to extract useful information can be used to apply for the fellowship.

11. How are the applications evaluated?

Applications will be judged on three criteria; the quality of the research plan, the quality of the applicant, the quality of the mentorship plan.

12. Is previous research experience necessary to apply for the fellowship?

Although it helps to have some previous research experience, it is not required for the application.

13. Can I use the fellowship funds to conduct research at another institution/university?

Dean's fellowship funding cannot be used for research outside of VCU and its affiliated institutions.

14. Will I need to present my work at the end of the fellowship?

Yes, all students are required to present their research at the end of the fellowship, regardless of the outcome of their projects.

15. How are the best projects selected and prizes awarded?

Three posters are selected by a group of judges for the first, second and third positions that carry prizes of \$1000, \$500 and \$250 respectively.

16. What is the success rate of applications for the Dean's fellowship?

Success rates for Deans fellowship are high, but vary from year to year and depend on the number of applications. Up to sixty fellowships can be awarded each year.