

VCU SOM Dean's Summer Research Fellowship

The purpose of this program is to help students get valuable research experience in an area of their interest. Students are encouraged to identify an area of research interest, talk to a research mentor at VCU (VCU faculty member or a clinician working at VCU), prepare a one-page research proposal after consultation with the mentor and submit an online application.

Eligibility and requirements for students and faculty mentors

- Fellowship is limited to current first-year VCU medical students to conduct funded research during the summer between years M1 and M2.
- Students in the School of Medicine may do research with any faculty member in the school.
- Projects in both clinical and basic sciences are eligible for funding.
- A student may submit only one application for the fellowship.
- Students are encouraged to discuss potential research projects with their mentors, write their own proposals and seek faculty approval before submission.
- Students who are selected for a Dean's Summer Research Fellowship receive a stipend of \$2,500. The number of these fellowships is limited and they are, therefore, competitive.
- Fellowships are for a period of two months.
- A faculty member may sponsor only one fellowship-funded student application per year, unless a compelling justification to supervise more than one student is approved by the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Research Training.
- Mentors must be present for at least 6 months to supervise students. Mentors should state their availability in the support letters.
- Faculty members with primary appointments at the VA hospital and having VCU affiliation are eligible to mentor students.
- Dean's fellowship funding can not be used for research outside of VCU and its affiliated institutions.

Application process

- Applicants must complete the [School of Medicine Student Summer Research Fellowship Application Form](#). Only online submissions through the following website will be accepted. Please use the following URL to submit your application. <https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=CJ3XLJR3RKKL8L3X>
- The applicant's prospective research mentor must prepare an NIH-style Biosketch and a letter in which the mentor agrees to supervise the research and to be present for at least six weeks of the research period. Instructions for the Biosketch can be found at the following link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> and a template can also be downloaded from the [application's website](#).
- The applicant must upload the mentor's Letter and Biosketch online as part of the [School of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship Application](#).

Review of applications

Applications will be judged on three criteria:

1. The quality of the mentorship plan (Does the mentor have a history of successful research? Has the mentor made a commitment to supervise the student? Does the mentor have a prior history of mentorship success?),
2. The quality of the applicant (Does the applicant have prior research experience? Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of and ability to describe the proposed research?)
3. The quality of the research plan (Is there a clearly stated and testable hypothesis? Is a clear rationale for the project presented with a statement of the research problem, prior research, and gaps in knowledge? Is the project feasible in the duration of the project? Will the project provide an educational experience for the student? Did the student write the proposal?).

Student Obligations

- The student will devote full time to the research project throughout the time devoted to the fellowship and will not hold other jobs during this eight (8) week period.
- The student will submit a poster of their research for presentation at Medical Student Research Day in April of the following year. Not all submitted research summaries are accepted for presentation, but the best presentations are awarded prizes: First prize gets \$1,000, 2nd \$500 and 3rd \$250.
- Any publication resulting from this research should acknowledge support by the School of Medicine.

Important dates

- Student Notification: January 13, 2022
- Application Submission Deadline: February 28, 2022, 11:59pm
- Decision Notification Date: April 2022

For more information, please contact:

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