

MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (IRAEA)

Undergraduate Research Scholars Program
Request for Proposals

Summer 2018

The deadline for proposals for summer 2018 funding is 5:00 p.m. April 27, 2018.

montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate_research_scholars

The mission of the MSU IRAEA is to engage undergraduate and graduate students with faculty in academic research that will further the understanding of economic regulation and policy's impact on societal well-being. IRAEA facilitates research, analysis, and teaching of regulatory economics as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other sectors.

IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

IRAEA funds research scholarships for undergraduate students from a wide-range of disciplines to participate in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the IRAEA mission. Awards are available for semester-, academic year-, and summer-length research projects. Additional support is available for student travel to regional or national conferences at which *the student* presents the results of the sponsored research project.

With IRAEA undergraduate research scholarships, faculty and students have the opportunity to explore academic interests beyond the classroom. Students get hands-on experience with research and acquire academic and professional skills and credentials, and faculty get help with their research projects. Tenured/tenure-track faculty at MSU must apply on behalf of student researchers.

Examples of potential research projects (note that these are examples, not recommendations or requirements; a full listing of previously funded projects is available at:

http://www.montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate_research_scholars.html):

- The impacts of regulation of biological and chemical pesticide control technologies in agriculture
- The impacts of regulation, technology and/or health professional certification and licensing regulations on the development of healthcare-related products, healthcare access and healthcare quality
- The impacts of technology and/or policy and regulation on educational services and educational quality

- The impacts of technology and/or criminal justice policy and regulation on state and federal penal systems, recidivism, and crime rates

Eligibility

All MSU undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to apply.

Students are encouraged to connect with faculty to discuss potential research projects.

Faculty are encouraged to reach out to eligible students who would be a good fit as research assistants for their faculty research projects.

Research must include a component that addresses the impact of U.S. regulation and/or policy in agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, or other related sectors. Interdisciplinary research proposals and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are welcome, and faculty members outside economics are encouraged to reach out to Wendy Stock (wstock@montana.edu) for assistance in identifying potential ways to include economic regulation and policy analysis in their projects.

Award Amounts

Awards for summer support may be requested in the range of \$1,500 - \$2,000, contingent on the level of student involvement in the research.

Additional support is available for **student travel** to regional or national conferences at which the student presents the results of the research. Faculty requesting student travel funds should include a description of the conference, including dates, and an anticipated travel budget. Awards are contingent upon funding availability.

Application Process

A tenured/tenure-track member of the MSU Bozeman faculty must apply on the student's behalf, and applications from researchers in disciplines outside economics are strongly encouraged.

The application should include:

- A. A brief description of the research project (no more than 400 words), including a clear research plan and a clear statement of the relevance of the project to the IRAEA mission.
- B. A brief description of the role of the student in the project (no more than 200 words), the expected weekly number of hours the student will commit to the project, the amount of support requested for the student, and a budget justification.

- C. A brief statement of the expected outcomes of the project (no more than 150 words), including the journal(s) to which the research paper will be submitted and anticipated submission date.
- D. A brief description of the qualifications of the student to conduct the research (no more than 100 words).
- E. The student's curriculum vitae (including the student's GPA at the end of the previous semester).

Deadline and Submission Requirements

The deadline for proposals for summer 2018 funding is 5:00 p.m. April 27, 2018.

Faculty should submit their applications to Tamara Moe, Business Manager, (tamara.moe@montana.edu). Please feel free to contact Dr. Vince Smith (994-5615, vsmith@montana.edu) or Dr. Wendy Stock, (994-7984, wstock@montana.edu) at any time if you have questions about the proposal format and/or instructions or would like to discuss potential project ideas.

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by the Initiative's Undergraduate Research Scholarship Selection Committee (comprised of the IRAEA co-directors, the IRAEA Research Fellows) soon after the submission deadline. Awards are expected to be announced by May 4, 2018.

Research Project Expectations

Undergraduate Research Scholars will participate in up to two lunchtime brownbag seminars during the semester, where students will informally share their research and get feedback from peers and faculty. At the end of their funding period, student scholars should provide a brief (500 words or fewer) end-of-project report that describes their role and project outcomes. This final report should be sent in a PDF format to Dr. Wendy Stock, (wstock@montana.edu). Students are also strongly encouraged to submit their research for presentation at the MSU Student Research Celebration in April of each year.