

MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (IRAEA)

Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

Request for Proposals Spring Semester 2019

Proposals due January 25, 2019

montana.edu/regecon/undergraduate_research_scholars

The mission of the MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis (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 and analysis of the impact of policy and regulation in agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other sectors of the U.S. economy.

IRAEA Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

IRAEA funds research scholarships for undergraduate students from a wide range of disciplines who participate in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to IRAEA's mission. Awards are available for semester-, academic year-, or summer-length research projects.

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. Faculty at MSU must apply on behalf of student researchers.

A full listing of previously funded projects is available at:

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

Eligibility

All MSU undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to apply. Students must be enrolled at MSU (for awards made during the academic year) and be expected to return to MSU in the fall semester (for awards made during the summer).

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.

Interdisciplinary research proposals and proposals directed by multiple project leaders are welcome, and faculty members outside economics are encouraged to contact Dr. Vince Smith (994-5615, vsmith@montana.edu) or Dr. Wendy Stock, (994-7984, wstock@montana.edu) with questions, discuss potential project ideas, or for assistance in identifying potential ways to include regulation and policy analysis in their projects.

Award Amounts

Awards for support for one semester are expected to be made in the range of \$750-\$1,500, 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 additional funds for student travel should include a description of the conference, including dates, and an anticipated travel budget. Awards are contingent upon funding availability.

Application Process

A 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 proposal should include:

- A. Student name, major, expected graduation date/academic level, contact info
- B. Faculty member name and department, contact info
- C. Research project title
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. A brief description of the qualifications of the student to conduct the research (no more than 100 words).
- H. 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 is 5:00 p.m. January 25, 2019.

Faculty should submit their applications to Tamara Moe, IRAEA Business Manager, (tamara.moe@montana.edu).

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by the Initiative's Undergraduate Research Scholarship Selection Committee (comprised of the IRAEA co-directors and IRAEA Research Fellows) soon after the submission deadline. Awards are expected to be announced by Feb. 1, 2019.

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.