

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Awards

Request for Proposals

Spring 2018

Applications due February 2

The mission of the MSU Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis 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.

The Initiative will achieve its mission by facilitating research, analysis, and teaching of regulatory economics as applied to agriculture, healthcare, technology, finance, natural resources, education, public safety, and other sectors of the U.S. economy. Research programs are expected to leverage the University's geographic position and research track record to inform the public policy debate on state, regional, and national issues. They are also expected to achieve lasting impacts on undergraduate and graduate students by providing support to enable their research on relevant public policy topics.

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Awards: The Initiative will fund research scholarships for undergraduate students from a wide range of disciplines who participate in faculty-led research projects that address issues relevant to the Initiative's mission. Undergraduate Research Scholarships will be awarded on a semester-by-semester or academic year basis. **This request for proposals is for research scholarships for the spring 2018 semester.**

Application process: An application must be made by a tenured/tenure-track member of the MSU-Bozeman faculty on behalf of the undergraduate student. Applications from researchers in disciplines outside economics are strongly encouraged. The application should include:

- 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 mission of the Initiative.
- 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.
- 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.
- A brief description of the qualifications of the student to conduct the research (no more than 100 words).
- The student's curriculum vita (including the student's GPA at the end of the previous semester).

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. Academic year awards are expected to range from \$1,500-\$3,000.

Depending on funding availability, additional support may be provided to enable a student to attend a regional or national conference at which **the student** presents the results of the sponsored research project. Faculty requesting funds for such use should include a description of the conference, including dates, and an anticipated travel budget.

Awards are contingent upon the continued availability funding and are expected to be announced by 2/9/2018. Funding for spring semester awards must be expended by 6/1/2018.

Other Expectations: In addition to their research activity, recipients of Undergraduate Research Scholarship Awards are expected to participate in up to two lunchtime brownbag seminars each semester. The seminars will enable students to share their research with peers and faculty researchers. Dates for the lunchtime brownbag seminars will be announced at the beginning of each semester. Students are also strongly encouraged to submit their research for presentation at the MSU Student Research Celebration in April of each year.

Deadline and Submission Requirements: Faculty should submit their applications **no later than 2/2/2018** to Tamara Moe, Business Manager (tamara.moe@montana.edu). **Early applications will also be considered for faculty and students who want to start projects earlier in the semester.** 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 co-directors and research fellows) soon after the submission deadline.