



To: Graduate students and faculty

From: Gary Belovsky

Date: 15 January 2018

Regarding: UNDERC Graduate student research and mentoring fellowships

We invite all graduate students to apply for UNDERC (University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center) fellowships. The fellowships are available to any Notre Dame graduate student. A minimum of two summer research and six mentoring fellowships at UNDERC will be awarded. These are restricted to graduate students studying environmental sciences (e.g., ecology, biology, anthropology, engineering, geology, etc.). Fellowship applications will be considered from post-doctoral researchers, but priority will be given to graduate students.

Advisement Requirement

- UNDERC fellows are required to advise at least two undergraduates' independent research projects that are part of the UNDERC undergraduate summer course, BIOS 35502. ***This advising requires extended residence at UNDERC (60% of the ten-week course, May 21 – July 27) and should entail a minimum of one day per week, on average, working with the students.*** Even when not physically on property, mentors should maintain contact electronically with their students and be available to offer advice and assistance remotely. Employing undergraduates as labor in the graduate student's project will not fulfill this requirement; rather, the graduate student should consider how small ancillary projects conducted by UNDERC undergraduates might benefit his/her graduate research. The undergraduate projects must be exclusively conducted on the UNDERC property and must "stand alone" so that the students achieve closure in their projects. This requirement is independent of the amount of funds awarded or whether the graduate student's faculty advisor requires his/her graduate students to help advise the faculty member's undergraduate research advisees at UNDERC. Undergraduate research projects must be completed before the end of the UNDERC summer course with the last 2 days of the course (July 24-25) being a symposium where each student presents his/her results in a 15-minute presentation and provides a written version of the presentation; grades will be assigned at this time – ***the graduate student advisor is required to attend these presentations to evaluate their student's performance. Working with these undergraduates must be taken seriously. Each undergraduate research project will be allowed \$500 for supplies.*** Equipment purchased with an UNDERC research fellowship is the property of UNDERC following completion of the project. In addition, UNDERC fellows are required to work with their undergraduate students on designing their projects and preparing research proposals during the spring semester that is due at the end of the first week of the course (May 27).

Graduate students may also apply for fellowships for similar work at UNDERC-West (class dates: June 6 – Aug. 15). Contact David Flagel (dflagel@nd.edu) or Gary Belovsky (belovsky.1@nd.edu) for details about these fellowships.

Provisions

- Housing will be provided. This will be a bed in a shared apartment on the UNDERC property. Exclusive use of a bedroom or apartment, however, must be paid for at the assessed rates, if space is available. Living off-property will not be subsidized.

I. Research Fellowships (two available):

Eligibility

Graduate students, who plan to conduct an UNDERC research project, can apply for multi-year (up to 3 years) summer research fellowships. Preference will be given to Ph.D. students.

Award Considerations

These fellowships will be allocated on a competitive basis and will provide up to \$9200/year (up to \$7200 for 3-month stipend and up to \$2000 for research expenses). *If a student already has summer stipend through another fellowship, they can only apply for research expenses and housing.*

Research Guidelines

The \$9200/year applies to research that is conducted 100% on UNDERC property. Projects that are not entirely on UNDERC property will be prorated based on the amount of data collection on the UNDERC property, not analyzing samples or data. For example, if 30 study sites are proposed with 10 sites on UNDERC property, the graduate student application for UNDERC research support is eligible for 33% of the potential \$7200 stipend and 33% of the potential \$2000 for research expenses. UNDERC study sites are defined as the Notre Dame property, including experimental facilities, and the immediate Tenderfoot Creek watershed in the Ottawa National Forest.

Additional Provision

- Vehicle. UNDERC vehicles will be made available to these projects, but only for work on UNDERC as defined above and use must be scheduled with the Assistant Director, as preference is given to the UNDERC undergraduate students. UNDERC vehicle use will be assessed for gasoline charges.

Proposal

- No longer than 5 pages (including tables, figures, references and budget request)
- Double-spaced
- Submitted to the UNDERC office (097 Galvin Life Sciences) or e-mailed to underc@nd.edu by **Friday, March 2, 2018**
- A letter of support from your advisor should be attached to the proposal
- Decisions will be announced by March 9, 2018.
- Points to be clearly addressed:
 - The percentage of this project conducted on UNDERC property
 - The basic concept of general ecological or environmental science interest beyond the particular study system or applied issues
 - The undergraduate projects that will be incorporated in your research plan
- An accounting of annual expenditures and a one-page progress report due by January 31, 2019 to the UNDERC office. Remaining funds will not carry over between years.
- Failure to provide the annual report will make you ineligible for future UNDERC support.

II. Mentoring Fellowships (six available):

These summer graduate fellowships pay \$7200 and do not require the student to conduct research on the UNDERC-East property. However, the graduate student must mentor at least two undergraduates from the UNDERC-East summer program (BIOS 35502) in their research projects on the UNDERC-East property. This will require the graduate student to be in residence at UNDERC-East for at least 60% of the ten-week summer course (May 21 – July 27), so that students can get advice, and spend a minimum of one day per week, on average, working with the two undergraduate students. Even when not physically on property, mentors should maintain contact electronically with their students and be available to offer advice and assistance remotely.

Application Requirement

- A proposal no longer than 1 page, double-spaced describing each potential student project. Up to \$500 will be allowed for supplies used in each project.
- Submitted to the UNDERC office (097 Galvin Life Sciences) or e-mailed to underc@nd.edu by **Friday, March 2, 2018.**
- A letter of support from your advisor should be attached to the proposal.
- Decisions will be announced by March 9, 2018.

III. Post-doctoral Mentoring Fellowships (only available if graduate student positions are not filled):

These summer fellowships require the post-doctoral researcher to mentor at least two undergraduates from the UNDERC-East summer program (BIOS 35502) in their research projects on the UNDERC-East property. This will require the post-doctoral researcher to be in residence at UNDERC-East for at least 60% of the ten-week summer course (May 22 – July 28), so that students can get advice, and spend a minimum of one day per week, on average, working with the two undergraduate students.

Application Requirement

- A proposal no longer than 1 page, double-spaced describing each potential student project. Up to \$500 will be allowed for supplies used in each project.
- Submitted to the UNDERC office (097 Galvin Life Sciences) or e-mailed to underc@nd.edu by **Friday, March 2, 2018.**
- A letter of support from your post-doctoral advisor should be attached to the proposal.
- Decisions will be announced by March 9, 2018.