



## UNDERC Summer Graduate Fellowships

### Call for Applications

We invite Notre Dame graduate students to apply for a University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center ([UNDERC](#)) summer graduate fellowship for 2020 to study at our world-class field station in northern Wisconsin/Michigan (UNDERC-East; up to 8 fellowships) or at our facilities in western Montana (UNDERC-West; up to 2 fellowships). These fellowships are available on a competitive basis to graduate students interested in any area of the environmental sciences (e.g., ecology, environmental genomics, ecological modeling, disease ecology, environmental chemistry, anthropology, environmental engineering, hydrology, geoscience, sustainability, etc.).

**Award Components:** Fellowships will provide up to **\$8750** for the summer (**\$7750** for 3-month stipend from May 15 – Aug. 15, and up to **\$1000** for research expenses)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, summer housing at the field station for the same period will be provided free of charge along with suitable laboratory space and access to on-property field vehicles<sup>2</sup>. Fellowships are renewable annually for up to 3 years for multi-year research projects displaying suitable progress.

**Advising Requirement:** UNDERC graduate fellows are required to advise the independent research of at least two undergraduates enrolled in the UNDERC summer course (BIOS 35502), which can be related to the research of the graduate fellow<sup>3</sup>. Projects will be developed during the spring semester.

**How To Apply:** Candidates should apply to [underc@nd.edu](mailto:underc@nd.edu) by **Friday, February 21, 2020**, with:

- A brief cover letter describing your general interest in an UNDERC graduate fellowship.
- A 2-page single-spaced scholarly proposal following the general guidelines of the [NSF GRFP](#) program. (We only request the proposal and not the personal statement required by the GRFP.)
- A 1-page single-spaced document describing potential undergraduate projects for advisees.
- A brief letter from your advisor confirming their support for your proposed UNDERC work.
- A curriculum vitae detailing your background, experience, and accomplishments.
- Awards will be announced by **Friday, March 6, 2020**.

#### **Additional Aspects of the Fellowship:**

- Applicants for the UNDERC fellowships are encouraged to clearly indicate how UNDERC resources (field sites, laboratories, data bases, NEON, etc.) will be used in the proposed research, as priority will be given to applicants who use the property for some or all of their scholarship, but modeling, data analysis, and writing projects are also appropriate activities for fellows.
- An accounting of research expenditures and a 1-page progress report will be due to [underc@nd.edu](mailto:underc@nd.edu) by December 31, 2020. Residual funds will not carry over between years.

**For More Information** or to discuss your proposed research, contact either:

- Dr. Michael Cramer, Assistant Director, UNDERC-East: [mrcramer@nd.edu](mailto:mrcramer@nd.edu)
- Dr. David Flagel, Assistant Director, UNDERC-West: [dflagel@nd.edu](mailto:dflagel@nd.edu)
- Dr. Stuart Jones, Associate Director of Research: [sjones20@nd.edu](mailto:sjones20@nd.edu)
- Dr. Gary Lamberti, Gillen Acting Director of UNDERC: [glambert@nd.edu](mailto:glambert@nd.edu)

## Footnoted Provisions:

<sup>1</sup>A student already holding a summer stipend through another fellowship (university or external) will be awarded research expenses, housing, laboratory space, and vehicle access on property. The availability of an existing summer stipend/fellowship should be clearly stated in the application. Such applicants may be eligible for additional summer funding, such as undergraduate assistance, to support their research (please discuss your needs with the UNDERC Director).

<sup>2</sup>Housing will consist of a bed in a shared apartment on the UNDERC property. Off-property housing will not be subsidized. In addition, access to shared laboratory space will be provided to graduate fellows, as well as access to UNDERC vehicles for travel on the property only. Vehicle use will only be charged for gasoline usage to the research fund. Note that equipment or supplies purchased with an UNDERC graduate fellowship are the property of UNDERC following completion of the project.

<sup>3</sup>Graduate fellowships require extended residence at UNDERC (a minimum of 8 weeks of the 10-week undergraduate course: May 18 – July 24 for UNDERC East, June 8 – August 14 for UNDERC-West) plus additional time as needed for personal research or writing. Fellows must spend a minimum of one day per week, on average, working directly with their undergraduate advisees, which must be taken seriously. Even when not physically on property, mentors should maintain regular electronic contact 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 focused complementary projects conducted by UNDERC undergraduates might also benefit their graduate research. Each undergraduate research project will be allocated **\$500** for supplies. The undergraduate projects must be exclusively conducted on the UNDERC property and must “stand alone” so that the students achieve closure in their projects. Undergraduate research projects must be completed before the end of the UNDERC summer course, with the last week of the course featuring a symposium where each student presents their results in a 15-minute presentation; *graduate fellows are required to attend these presentations to evaluate their students' performance*. Undergraduate students also write a research report based on their projects; *graduate fellows must read these reports and provide a short written evaluation that contributes to the student grade in the course*. In addition, UNDERC fellows are required to work with their undergraduate students in designing their projects and preparing research proposals during the spring semester, with a final research proposal due by the end of the first week of the summer course. We are happy to answer any questions concerning these obligations.

### UNDERC East



### UNDERC West

