

Undergraduate Research Experience Fellowship Program

Description

The FIMS Undergraduate Research Experience Fellowship Program provides FIMS undergraduate students with an opportunity to obtain research experience by working with faculty members who are undertaking new, innovative, and collaborative research projects. During the 2020-21 year, we are funding two (2) teams of researchers led by FIMS faculty members, *Melissa Adler & Amanda Grzyb* and *Pamela McKenzie & Erin Isings*.

The McKenzie/Isings project is now open for applications with a deadline of August 10, 2020. The Adler/Grzyb project will open for applications in a few weeks with a later deadline.

The FIMS Undergraduate Research Experience Fellowship program aims to nurture a close-knit, multi-disciplinary, and intergenerational community of scholars. Grants have been awarded to the Principal Investigators named above to support undergraduate and graduate students working together with faculty researchers on their collaborative research projects. Students involved in the program will benefit from an opportunity to develop hands-on research skills. Students (in their non-RA time) will also be invited to participate in research-focused workshops, and other activities.

The Fellowship Program provides students with an opportunity to acquire advanced research skills and experience while collaborating with an intellectually vibrant community of peers, professors, and research professionals. Undergraduate students who participate in the program will receive the designation of ‘Undergraduate Research Fellow’.

Fellowships are available for several undergraduate students (see project descriptions). Students will be contacted for interviews shortly after the application deadline.

Undergraduate Research Fellows

KEY STUDENT BENEFITS

FIMS Student Fellowships offers several benefits to participants, including:

- Stipend as a Research Assistant
 - Undergraduate \$1250 per term (4-5 hours of work per week for 13 weeks – 2 terms)
- The opportunity to contribute to original faculty research projects, develop skills, and build supportive relationships with peers and professors
- Designation of “FIMS Fellowship” – may be added to your resume

HOW TO APPLY

Eligibility:

Undergraduate Research Fellows: FIMS undergraduate students with a minimum 75% average on the last 10 courses who are currently in second year or higher (going into third or fourth year) are eligible to apply.

In general, students who do not meet the basic eligibility requirements will not be considered for the program. There may be specific project-related reasons why researchers might require an exception to these eligibility requirements (e.g., the project requires Undergraduate Research Fellows with fluency in a particular language). If there are no FIMS undergraduates with the particular requirements, undergraduates from other Western programs may be considered.

Students must apply via email.

Selection criteria include academic achievement, commitment to the research project, and suitability for team-based research as shown by the application material and references. Enrolment is limited.

The Application:

Applications consist of:

- *transcripts* (screenshots from your student record are acceptable, but you must show all academic activity beginning from your first year of university, so that we will be able to determine your current year of study.)
- *resume* (include the names and email addresses of 2 academic referees whom we may contact)
- *one-page letter of interest* outlining how the Fellows Program furthers your educational or career aspirations. Speak directly about the research project. See attached project description for details.

Submission:

Applications must be submitted as an email attachment to Karen Kueneman, kueneman@uwo.ca. In the subject line of the email please type *FIMS Undergraduate Fellowship*.

DEADLINE for applications: August 10, 2020 (McKenzie/Isings project only)

Questions: Karen Kueneman, kueneman@uwo.ca or Sandra Smeltzer, fimsadr@uwo.ca .