

Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Summer Fellowship Program

Bradley University

Boundary-Breaking Innovation is a strategic imperative at Bradley University. The Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Summer Fellowship Program provides opportunities for recipients to pursue a significant project during the summer months by drawing on different perspectives and making connections across boundaries. The program is supported by the Division for Strategy and Innovation.

Recipients will gain an appreciation of diverse ideas and perspectives, gain communication and problem-solving skills, and learn to work collaboratively. Those competencies of 21st century learning equip students for the complex and multifaceted opportunities and challenges found in today's world.

Proposals generally seek support for completing or getting a jumpstart on a thesis, a capstone project, or a significant, time-intensive project that includes faculty mentorship. Proposals are welcome from any department and any major at Bradley University. The proposed project must have an interdisciplinary nature.

Eligibility: Applicants must be a degree-seeking full-time undergraduate at Bradley University with at least junior status (60+ credit hours) by the conclusion of the Spring 2023 semester. Students with senior status (90+ credit hours) are eligible if they are enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking undergraduate at Bradley University during the Fall 2023 semester.

What types of projects are funded? The proposed project must be interdisciplinary in nature. An interdisciplinary project:

integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge. Source: [National Science Foundation](#)

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the project, at least **one** of the following criteria should be met:

- a. Faculty co-mentors are from different departments.
- b. The project fulfills requirements for an interdisciplinary major or minor at Bradley University.
- c. The proposal is co-authored by two students who do not share the same major.
- d. If a, b, or c are not met, then a brief statement that clarifies the interdisciplinary nature of the project should be included in a cover letter that accompanies the proposal.

Only **one** criterion needs to be satisfied.

Award: Student awardees receive **\$4,500**. Two students from different majors may submit a proposal together as a team. In that case, each student awardee receives **\$2,250**. Awards are paid through student payroll and follow the Bradley student payroll schedule.

Faculty co-mentors will both receive **\$750** as an expression of gratitude for devoted summer mentorship. The award amount is **\$1,500** for a single mentor.

Commitments: For single-authored proposals (i.e., one student), the awardee is expected to work full-time (at least 30 hours a week) for at least 9 weeks out of the 13 weeks that span the Bradley 2023 summer sessions (May 15 through August 16). Thus, the minimum commitment is 270 hours (30 per week for 9 weeks). The minimum 9 week commitment can be spread out within the 13 week summer session (allowing for vacation time, etc.).

Co-awardees (i.e., two students who are co-authors on the proposal) are each expected to work 15 hours per week for 9 weeks (135 hours total) within the 13 week window specified above.

At the conclusion of the summer (August 16, 2023) the Fellow(s) will submit a **Project Summary** that describes the outcomes of the summer work. The summary will be a five-page double-spaced report that reflects thoughtfully on the summer experience and clearly details what was accomplished during the summer period of work. A template for the project summary will be made available. The summary will be submitted electronically to montg@fsmail.bradley.edu. The faculty mentor(s) should also receive the project summary.

The Fellow(s) is expected to submit the final work for presentation at the Bradley University Student Expo held in Spring 2024.

The student agrees to have his or her name, photograph, and project information appear on Bradley University websites and printed materials.

Faculty Mentor(s): The faculty mentor(s) commits to meet with the student routinely during the summer to discuss the project's progress. If necessary, these meetings may occur virtually. At least one mentor is a full-time faculty member at Bradley University.

The mentor(s) will review and approve (a) the project summary at the conclusion of the summer period and (b) the final written work submitted for presentation.

Application Process: Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Summer Fellowship Program

Completed applications include a proposal and a faculty letter of support. The proposal and faculty letter of support should be submitted electronically to montg@fsmail.bradley.edu no later than **Friday, March 10th, 2023**.

A. Proposal Format

The proposal should be written by the student with feedback from the faculty mentor(s). The proposal should be written for a non-specialist. In no more than 5 double-spaced pages (not including references), the proposal should provide:

1. **Student and faculty information** (name, department, and address) and the nature of the project (e.g., senior thesis, honors capstone or thesis, capstone to complete major requirements, independent studies, etc...).

2. **General project summary**. In 200 words or less, describe your proposal for a general audience by stating what you plan to do and the problem or creative opportunity that your project addresses.

3. **Project description**: A clear description of the proposed project should be written for a non-specialist. The description should include:

a. **Project goal**: The question or problem that motivates the project.

b. **Rationale**: How does your project fit into questions and opportunities raised by previous work? (cite sources of prior work by the applicant and/or others when relevant)

c. **A plan** explaining the method, procedure, techniques, and/or activities by which you will attempt to attain the project's goal. Address the interdisciplinary nature of the approach undertaken.

d. **Expected results**: A brief summary of anticipated outcomes (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, creative product, etc...) resulting from the summer work. Figures, graphs, and other depictions do not count against the 5 page limit of this section.

If the project requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval, note in this section if your project has such approval or when such approval is expected.

e. **References**: Works cited in your proposal.

4. **Proposed timeline**: The timeline should include (a) start- and end- dates during the summer, (b) specific project milestones expected at particular points during the summer and (c) if applicable, milestones in the semester(s) after the summer that will lead to final completion of the project.

Reviewers will take into account whether a student can realistically devote significant effort during the summer months and achieve the project goals in a timely manner. If a student is involved in activities or coursework that pose competing time demands, a statement explaining how the proposed timeline will be met is required.

Restrictions

If a summer project requires IRB or IACUC approval, it cannot be funded until that approval is obtained. It is the responsibility of the student and faculty mentor(s) to inform osp@bradley.edu if required approval has not been obtained by the time of the award period. Documentation of approval should be sent to osp@bradley.edu.

A student cannot be simultaneously funded during the summer period by this fellowship and more than one other active internal OSP award to faculty (such as SEA, FSA, or Seed).

Unused funds from this fellowship are not available for work that is completed after the summer session ends.

B. Faculty Letter of Support

The faculty mentor(s) will submit a single letter (jointly authored by co-mentors if applicable) that includes:

- a. A description of the student's (or students') academic qualifications and experiences that show exceptional promise for successful completion of the project within the proposed timeline. Please describe, if applicable, any previous or ongoing collaborative work with the student(s).
- b. An indication of the proposed project's soundness. Please indicate what makes the project exceptional and worth funding.
- c. A description of your anticipated involvement during the summer and, if applicable, during the subsequent months that lead to its completion.
- d. A statement explaining the interdisciplinary nature of the project. An interdisciplinary project: *integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge.* Source: [National Science Foundation](#)

Evaluation Rubric for Proposals

	Superior	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Adequate
PROPOSAL	5	4	3	2	1
Project goal and rationale are clearly stated					
Project plan is clearly aligned with project goal/rationale					
Anticipated outcomes clearly follow from project plan					
Clarity of expression for a non-specialist audience					
TIMELINE					
Milestones are stated in sufficient detail					
Realistic fit between plan and timeline					
FACULTY MENTOR(S) WRITTEN SUPPORT					
Student's (or students') previous work demonstrates exceptional promise					
Quality of the project					
Anticipated faculty involvement will provide sufficient guidance and promote independent work					
INTERDISCIPLINARY					
Interdisciplinary approach of proposed work is clear in proposal and faculty letter					

TOTAL SCORE _____