Application for 2016 Summer Awards for Students Doing Research in Biology

If you have questions, contact Rachel Merz (rmerz1)

Endowed funds of the Swarthmore Biology Department provide support for joint student-faculty or student initiated research in biology. Support for students is typically in the form of a summer stipend. The majority of these Biology Department funds (Meinkoth, Enders and Lande) were given to specifically support projects that in some way connect the research question to the biology of organisms in the field. If you wish to apply for such support please follow the instructions below. If the research you plan is wholly within a laboratory setting you should apply for an HHMI or Division award with the support of a faculty mentor. In either case, be sure to talk to a faculty member early in your planning.

I. PLANNING AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE for Field Biology Awards:

A. If your work will be supervised by a Swarthmore College Biology professor –

First, speak to the member of the biology faculty with whom you wish to collaborate or in whose area of expertise you wish to work. This person will be your mentor for the project and your project should be developed in collaboration with this faculty member. You should prepare a one-page description of your proposed research which must be approved by your faculty mentor. You only need to submit the application form on pg. 3.

B. If your work will be supervised by faculty at another institution –

Students proposing to do work at another institution with a non-Swarthmore faculty member should first seek funding at that location before applying for funds from the Swarthmore Biology Department. If you do work at another institution with a non-Swarthmore faculty member AND you want to apply for Swarthmore funding, you need to find a Swarthmore Biology faculty member who agrees to serve as the on-campus proposal advisor for your project. You should prepare a one-page description of your proposed research that must be approved by your Swarthmore faculty proposal advisor. You will need that Swarthmore faculty member’s signature on your application and you will also need a letter of support from your mentor at the other institution where he or she agrees to supervise your work.

C. Remember the following as you plan your project-

Funding is not guaranteed for all applications and is not usually given to graduates. You should also seek funding from sources outside this Department. The Biology Department webpage has a listing of funding sources and intern opportunities.

TIMELINE: Early in 2016: Find a faculty mentor/proposal advisor and develop your project and complete this application.

March 4, 2016: Deadline for handing in your applications, with your faculty mentor/proposal advisor’s signature and any necessary letters of support from off-campus faculty, to Rachel Merz. Submitting your application after the deadline will jeopardize your chances of receiving funding.

March 14, 2016: Notification of award recipients should occur by this date. The Committee will accept applications for funding outside of this timeframe as funds allow. If you have questions, contact Rachel Merz.
September 6, 2016: Students who have received awards from the Biology Department must submit a 1-2 page report on their summer research project. Those who received an advance for travel and supplies must also include a one page accounting of how the money was spent.

II. FUNDS

Support for summer research in biology is available from the following endowed fund. It is not necessary to identify the fund in your proposal. The Biology Department will allocate approved funding to each of the funds. For all funds the project may be in collaboration with a member of the Biology Department or an independent project pursued under the supervision of a member of the Department or faculty at another institution. The award may be used to meet the essential costs of the project to the student, including equipment, transportation, and living expenses or the student may receive a stipend instead of reimbursement of costs. Top priority for funding will be given to joint student-Swarthmore faculty ventures.

1. Robert Enders Field Research Award

In honor of Professor Robert K. Enders, a member of the department for many years, Dr. Enders was a mammalogist and endocrinologist who took students with him on many field expeditions to the Colorado Rockies and to Central America.

2. Norman A. Meinkoth Field Biology Award

In honor of Professor Norman A. Meinkoth, a member of the department for many years Dr. Meinkoth was a marine biologist who was renowned for his exciting field trips to coastal areas.

3. The Lande Research Fund

This fund was established through a gift by S. Theodore Lande, a benefactor of the College. Mr. Lande’s grandson, Eric Lane ’92, now a professional field biologist, was involved in field biology while at Swarthmore.

4. The Robert E. Savage Award to support research in Cell and Molecular Biology

This fund was established by students and colleagues to support student research in cell and molecular biology and in honor of Professor Robert E. Savage, the first professor of Cell Biology at Swarthmore College. Its funds allow us to offer it only in alternate years.
Before submitting this application you should speak to a faculty member with whom you wish to collaborate or in whose area you wish to work. You must obtain this faculty member’s signature below on your completed application. If you have a non-Swarthmore mentor, you must nevertheless find a Swarthmore faculty member to be your proposal advisor and sign your application. Please understand that funding is NOT guaranteed for all applications and that graduates are not usually funded.

Name: _________________________________________  Class _____ Date _____

Major:_____________________________________________Honors   ___Course

Title of Project: _______________________________________________________

Name and title of mentor:_______________________________________________

Swarthmore Faculty Signature
(mentor or proposal advisor) _____________________________________________

Is this a Biology Department approved Honors Thesis project? ________________

Have you applied for other support? _______  If yes, please list sources contacted and the results on a separate sheet.

Location of research: _________________________________________________________

Amount of Stipend Requested (Maximum Stipend for 10 weeks - $4,350): ________________

Amount of funding requested for supplies or transportation: _________________

Biology courses taken (List title, year and grade):

__________________________________ _________________________

__________________________________ __________________________

__________________________________ __________________________

1. Attach a one page description of your proposed research. You may also include supporting papers or reports. Explain your role in the research and a justification of where the work will take place.

2. If you are requesting money for supplies, travel or other needs, attach a budget detailing how the money will be spent.

3. Proposals for work supervised by a non-Swarthmore faculty member must attach a letter from that faculty member stating that they support the proposed research and that they will be responsible for its supervision.

4. Attach a statement describing your effort to secure funding outside the Department.