Summer Research Program

Evaluation Criteria for Student-Initiated Project Proposals

**Academic rigor.** The project explores a specific question in the sciences, social sciences or humanities, using appropriate academic methodology to enhance existing knowledge.

**Connection to personal, professional and/or academic interests.** The project clearly aligns with the student’s interests and contributes meaningfully to his/her academic, professional and intellectual development.

**Skill- and knowledge-building potential.** The project enables the student to gain skills and knowledge that allow for further, more advanced research in the chosen field.

**Length.** Proposed research activities must be at least 4 weeks long; shorter ones will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Most projects are expected to last 4-10 weeks. A project may continue beyond the summer vacation, but the summer research should be a well-defined, self-contained part of the bigger project (e.g. only data collection, for subsequent analysis). If the proposed activity is shorter than 4 weeks, it must be part of a longer project that continues beyond the summer vacation. Note that only the summer portion of a longer project is eligible for SRP funding consideration.

**Focus and feasibility.** The project is focused and achievable within the proposed time frame. It can be self-contained, or a well-defined discrete part of a larger research effort.

**Budget.** The project budget is adequate for the proposed project timeframe and activities, and commensurate with the scholarly potential of the proposed research. Projects that demonstrate an active commitment to seeking funding from additional sources will be considered favorably.

**Safety.** The project demonstrates awareness of potential risks, and proper safety planning regarding the research location, materials and study subjects. Projects in locations that are undergoing political or social instability will not be supported.