



UMass

| Dartmouth

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## Student Research Grants

The Office of Undergraduate Research is committed to supporting UMass Dartmouth undergraduates in all aspects of their research endeavors. We are pleased to offer small research grants to help offset the costs of performing research projects, with research being broadly conceived and taking place in any and all disciplines.

Research awards are primarily for consumable materials, incentives, or research-related travel. Applications should be made during the academic year in which support is requested. Unless otherwise indicated, the Fall deadline for applications is usually in early October; the Winter/Spring deadline for applications is usually in early December. The exact dates and times will be announced here on this website as well as via email sent to the UMass Dartmouth community.

Please contact the OUR for information about support for summer research by Undergraduates.

A student may only receive one research award per academic year. Successful applicants in the Fall are asked not to apply again in the Winter/Spring. Unsuccessful Fall applicants are encouraged to improve their proposal and reapply in the Winter/Spring Semester. The maximum amount of any single award is **\$500**. Students should contact the OUR in cases where there is documented need for additional funds. Each student is additionally subject to an individual cap on awards during their time as a student, of \$1000.

### Student Research Grant Application

Applications should be prepared by students, in collaboration with a faculty member. It is expected that the faculty member will have read and approved the application.

### The application must include each of the following components:

- a completed cover sheet (available on the same page where you downloaded this file: <https://bit.ly/3esdzlg>)
- a brief project description (less than **1000 words**)
- an itemized budget for the estimated cost of the project. Please be as specific as possible
- a list of other funding sources for which the student has applied or plans to apply
- details of other financial support available for the project from the faculty mentor
- a brief statement illustrating the impact of the research on student career plans

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Considerations include

- Quality and originality of the project
- the total cost of the project
- relationship of project to future goals

Funds will be disbursed in different ways depending on the nature of the project. For laboratory-based research, materials/supplies will be ordered by the OUR via Buyways. For other projects, arrangements should be made with the OUR.

Upon completion of the research, a brief one page report will be required. This report should outline the results of the project, and describe how the OUR money was used. Reports should be submitted to the OUR by email ([our@umassd.edu](mailto:our@umassd.edu)).

## **Mandatory Sections of an OUR Research Award Application:**

### **Project Description**

In this section, you describe the research/scholarly activity. Your narrative should include the following:

- Background information
- Questions/motivation for the proposed project
- Objectives of the proposed project
- Description of the proposed work
- Clear statement of the originality of the proposed work.

### **Itemized Budget**

An itemized budget shows a breakdown of the requested materials, with an estimate of their cost. This allows an easy assessment of the appropriateness of the requests, and also illustrates the amount of thought that has gone into planning the project. It is not sufficient to simply show the total request. Even if you only need one item, that item must be listed.

*Here is an example of a generalized budget for a biology project:*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Chemicals	\$105
Petri dishes	\$100
DNA purification kit	\$200
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$405</b>

*A project in the social sciences might have a budget looking something like this:*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Gift cards for participants	\$10 each	\$200
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>		<b>\$200</b>

*Here is an example of a generalized budget for a humanities project:*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Content reference work unavailable in UMD library	\$150
Individual license agreement for online resource	\$100
Travel to special collection for materials unavailable through UMD library interlibrary loan	\$50 (mileage costs)
Photocopying	\$25
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$325</b>

Please note: The following items are not generally allowed by the OUR. Any requests for these should first be discussed with the OUR.

- Student stipends
- Permanent equipment (including computers)
- Books (unless evidence is provided that they are not available in the UMassD library or by inter-library loan).

### **List of other potential funding sources**

In this section, you should write about other sources of funding to which you could apply. We strongly encourage students to seek additional avenues of support. Finding other sources of funding will increase the money you can spend on your project, and will be an excellent addition to your CV. Success in obtaining funding from other sources will not change your eligibility for the OUR award.

### **Statement of other support currently available from faculty mentor**

In this section, you should mention any grant support the faculty mentor has for the project you will be doing. Your application will not be compromised by the availability of existing support, but we do like to know about it.

### **Statement of the impact of the research on future career**

This section is for you to show how the research/scholarly activity in which you engage will impact your future. It might be that it helps you with graduate school applications, or perhaps it will improve your chances of landing your dream job. You know why you are doing it, and we'd like to know too.