Research Experiences for Undergraduate Students (REU)

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Program Goal

• Expand student participation in research
• Disciplinary
• Interdisciplinary
• Educational
• Develop a diverse pool of talented students into S&E careers
• Underrepresented minorities
• Women
• Persons with disabilities
Characteristics of Projects

- Meaningful research
- High quality interaction with faculty and/or research mentors
- Access to facilities
- Professional Development for Students
- Intensive Summer Research Experience (8-10 weeks)
- Research Experiences during Academic Year
Of Special Interest

- Start earlier – first- and second-year undergraduates by developing partnerships with community colleges.

- International Research

- Veterans returning from active duty
Types of REU Projects

• **REU Sites – independent proposals**
  • Submitted to various programs throughout NSF
  • Involves a number of students
  • Provides a well-defined cohort experience

• **Project Duration: 1 to 5 years (3 years typical)**

• **Funding Level: varies**
  • typically $70,000-$110,000 per year
  • increases with number of students hosted
REU Sites

• **Project costs primarily for student support**
  - Participant stipends
  - Housing, meals, travel
  - Laboratory use

• **Student Stipends**
  - Summer ~ $500 per student per week
  - Academic year comparable on pro rata basis

• **Total project costs typically**
  - ~ $800 to $1,000 per student per week
REU Supplements

- Ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

- Supplement to NSF-funded project or part of a proposal for new grant.

- Typically supports 1-2 students at ~$500 per week per student.

- Total summer costs ~ $800 - $1,000 per week per student including other student-related costs.

- Academic year comparable on pro rata basis.
Important Areas of Solicitation

• Faculty Eligibility
  • PI and no more than one Co-PI.

• Student Eligibility
  • US Citizen or Permanent Resident
  • Enrolled in a degree program as part-time or full-time
  • Significant fraction should come from outside the host institution.
  • K-12 teachers may be eligible per NSF directorate.

• Detailed plan with examples of research projects

• Interactions that promote student integration as member of research team (collegial relationships; mentoring)

• Student Recruitment and Selection
  • targeted effort to involve students who otherwise would not have opportunity
Average REU Site Budget

• REU project costs are mainly for participant costs. As a guide, the average grant totals around $800 to $1,000 per student per week.

• These items are considered allowable participant costs:
  • participant stipends (approximately $400-450/student/week)
  • participant travel to REU site
  • participant travel to professional meetings
  • participant subsistence while living on campus
  • on-campus housing and parking
  • research materials and supplies for participants.

• Other allowable costs typically include:
  • one-month summer salary for senior personnel (with fringe benefits).
  • an administrative allowance (up to 25% of the participant stipend costs).
  • costs to support a closing reception.
  • An additional amount of $4,000 per year may be requested to support ethics activities.
Unallowable Costs/Charges

- Tuition costs.
- Student application fees.
- May not charge students tuition as a requirement to participate but may provide credits.
- May not charge students access to common campus facilities such as libraries or athletic facilities. Such fees, if applicable, must be covered through the administrative allowance in the project budget.
- one-month summer salary for senior personnel (with fringe benefits).
- an administrative allowance (up to 25% of the participant stipend costs).
- costs to support a closing reception.
- An additional amount of $4,000 per year may be requested to support ethics activities.
Other Budget Considerations

- Informal seminars, field trips, and similar gatherings through which students interact and become attuned to the culture of research and their discipline are often vital to the success of undergraduate research experiences.

- However, costs of entertainment, amusement, diversion, and social activities, and any expenses directly associated with such activities (such as meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities), are unallowable in the proposal budget.

- Costs of "working meals" at seminars and other events at which student participation is required and for which there is a formal agenda are generally allowable.

- An administrative allowance, limited to 25% of the participant support stipend amount is allowed for REU awards in lieu of indirect costs.
A typical breakdown per student is shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipend</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel allowance</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormitory and meal plan</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research material/supplies</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box lunches</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster supplies</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe</td>
<td>$336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total allocation per student is approximately $9,291.
Leveraging Resources

- Administrative assistant support
- Support for additional students from other university sources
- Salary support for REU Director
- Materials and Supplies for REU program and Mentors
- Discount or financial support for REU students' housing, tuition, and food
- Local travel, social events, and travel to other conferences for students
- Cost for inviting speakers for the REU program
- Leveraging funds by collaboration with other programs on campus with common interests
- Cost for evaluation
- Cost for publication/Free webmaster
Proposal Components

- Project Summary with Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts (1 page)
- Project Description (15 pages)
  - Overview
  - Nature of Student Activities
  - The Research Environment
  - Student Recruitment and Selection
  - Project Evaluation and Reporting
  - Results from Prior NSF Support (If applicable)
- Biographical Sketches for all senior personnel (up to 12 people)
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Supplementary Documents (if applicable)
  - Supplementary Ethics Component Funding (3 pages)
  - Letters of Commitment (up to 5 letters)
Deadlines

June 29, 2012  Letter of Intent* to RAD

July 25, 2012  Full Proposal** to RAD for external review

August 22, 2012  NSF

* Letter of Intent can be in email form to Terry Shehata (tshehata@usm.maine.edu). The letter should list the PI and Co-PI (if applicable), disciplines, mentors, and a paragraph summary of the project. (One page limit).

** Full proposal means Project Summary, Project Description, Bios, Current and Pending, Budget and Budget Narrative, Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources, and Supplementary documents (if applicable)

Applications that are not submitted to RAD by the deadline for external review will not be approved for submission to NSF.