

Fellowship Advising Office SUPER-Curricular Seed Grants*

Description: Strong candidates for highly competitive national fellowships are intellectually engaged; they value a broad-based education and they have explored their individual interests through wider reading and research outside structured classroom and extracurricular activities. The **Fellowship Advising Office SUPER-Curricular Seed Grants** are intended to encourage and enable promising undergraduate students to build on their undergraduate studies by participating in **EXTRAORDINARY** summer experiences that will enhance their competitiveness for prestigious national and international scholarships and fellowships and for admission to highly competitive graduate programs. The best thing about Super-Curricular activities is that there are no exams, no deadlines, and no grades to worry about. You are **FREE** to follow your own lines of inquiry into areas that interest you the most within your academic curriculum. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to propose a creative, intellectually engaging project that many students can only dream about! Undergraduate students from all backgrounds and majors are encouraged to apply. We particularly invite creative and original proposals.

One or more awards of up to \$5000 will be available for **Summer 2017**.

Eligibility

- Full-time undergraduate student at the time of application.
- Open to freshmen and sophomore undergraduate students with 3.5 or higher GPA.
- Open to junior undergraduate students with a 3.7 or higher GPA if and only if their summer project is for an Honors Thesis (University Honors Program or Department Honors Program).

Guidelines for the Proposed Project

A. The Project **MUST**

- Be self-designed
- Have a direct tie to your major or minor or to your thesis
- Occur during the summer, for 8 weeks or longer, and be your **primary** summer activity

B. The Project **MAY**

- Enhance or expand your independent research already in progress, if the summer research is undertaken outside of NC State
- Supplement a traditional summer study abroad program with an independent research project outside of structured activities
- Be a highly competitive unpaid internship (e.g., National Endowment for the Humanities, State Department, U.S. Embassy abroad)
- Occur within or outside the United States

C. The Grant **WILL NOT FUND**

- Any experiences taken for academic credit
- Group projects
- Participation in experiences organized by someone else (e.g., REU, missions, service organization)
- Tuition for a program of study

Deadline: Applications must be received by 5pm on Monday, February 13th.

For more information and/or to request an application, please contact Dr. Tiffany Kershner (tiffany_kershner@ncsu.edu) or Ms. Alsace Gallop (alsace_gallop@ncsu.edu)

*The Fellowship Advising Office Super-Curricular Seed Grants have been made possible by a private gift to the Fellowship Advising Office.

Examples of Past Projects

1. Applied Nutrition and International Studies Major. I spent 10 weeks of my summer in the Dominican Republic, in a small, rural town named El Cercado, about an hour from the Haitian border. I conducted my own independent research focusing on the prevalence of breastfeeding and its effect on early childhood nutrition. **2013 FULBRIGHT GRANT SEMI-FINALIST**

2. Economics and International Studies Major. I spent the summer in Amman, Jordan where I pursued my independent examination into the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and obtained more extensive Arabic language experience and cultural immersion. **2014 BOREN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

3. History and French Literature Major. I spent my summer interning in the Office of Congressional and White House Affairs at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, DC. I worked on initiatives to extend the influence of the humanities in public policy and lobbied Congress for financial and political support of NEH projects, programs and grants. **2014 TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEE, 2016 MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEE**

4. Philosophy and English Literature Major. I interned with monochrom, “an international art-technology-philosophy group,” based in Vienna, Austria, where I participated in the realm of creative cultural production and resistance. I also wrote a screen play and edited a journal. **2014 TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST, 2015 RHODES SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEE**

5. Animal Science and Statistics Major. I pursued animal behavior research at Scotland’s Rural College (University of Edinburgh). I worked with faculty in their swine welfare department and helped conduct a study to determine what role factors like weight and innate aggressiveness play in determining the outcome of progressive interactions between pigs in group housing situations. **2015 GOLDWATER SCHOLAR, 2016 MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEE, 2016 NSF GRFP RECIPIENT**

6. Environmental Design in Architecture Major. Through the use of renewable bamboo resources, I helped with post disaster relief construction efforts in Nicaragua through my internship with CO2 Bambu. **2012 UK-US FULBRIGHT SUMMER INSTITUTE RECIPIENT, 2017 FULBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT TO RWANDA**

Advice and Timeline for a Competitive Application

October-December: Begin your research. Think about what interests you the most within your major and/or minor disciplines. Do some reading on this area of interest. Discuss your project ideas with classmates, faculty and advisors. For internships, make note of deadlines for applications and submit your internship applications.

January: Identify a faculty mentor. Begin writing your proposal. Share your proposal with your mentor and peers. Start making arrangements at your research location (make contacts, assess resources, and request permission to conduct research at that location, if necessary).

February: Draft a timeline and budget for proposed project. Revise, revise and revise some more!

February 13, 2017: Application Deadline: 5pm