**Oberlin College Research Fellowship  
2020 Application**

**Due February 13th, 2020 by 5pm**

The Oberlin College Research Fellowship (OCRF) seeks to increase the diversity of academic researchers by providing mentored research experiences to talented Oberlin students who are students of color, low-income students, and/or first-generation college students. OCRF aims to facilitate the intellectual and professional development of accepted students in order to prepare them to earn PhDs or other advanced degrees. Participation in OCRF will help to prepare students for careers in higher education or in professional fields such as law or medicine. The program is open to students in all research fields, disciplines, and majors who meet the requirements for eligibility.

**Eligibility**

The eligibility criteria include:

* Sophomore standing as of spring 2020 (Double degree juniors are also welcomed to apply)
* Good academic standing and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher
* Identification with one or more of the following:
  + First-generation college student (i.e., no parent has ever been awarded a Bachelor's Degree)
  + Low-income student (i.e., Pell Grant eligible or the equivalent)
  + Person of color (i.e., Black, Latinx, Native American, Pacific Islander, or of Asian or Middle Eastern descent)

There is no citizenship requirement for OCRF, and undocumented students are encouraged to apply.

**Program Components**

* Two summers mentored research
* Programming through Oberlin Summer Research Institute (OSRI) to promote research skills and personal development
* Community building through shared housing and activities
* Summer 2020 program dates: June 8th – July 31st, 2020

**Award**

* Student stipend: $3100 per summer
* Mentor stipend: $500 per summer
* On-campus housing
* $350 research funds per summer

**Program Requirements**

* Full-time research during summer
* In residence at Oberlin College
* No other major obligations during summer (e.g. other employment, course work, etc.)
* Attendance at OSRI workshops and community building events
* Mentors must be on campus for the majority of summer
* IRB and/or IACUC approval prior to June 2020 if applicable

**Application Procedure and Award Selection**

The complete application should be submitted as a single PDF document (excluding reference forms) by February 13th at 5pm by email to [OUR@oberlin.edu](mailto:OUR@oberlin.edu). Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. A complete application includes the following:

☐Signed and completed application cover page

☐Research proposal section: completed by the student under the guidance of their proposed mentor

☐Personal statement section: completed by the student

☐Mentoring plan: completed by the student and mentor in collaboration

☐Unofficial transcript

☐Two recommendations completed by Oberlin faculty who can speak to your potential for research or advanced academic work

The General Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Research will review all completed applications submitted on or before the deadline and select five to eight fellows who will join the continuing senior fellows. Applicants will be notified in early to mid-March on the status of their application. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

* Strength of the research project proposed by the student
* Demonstrated promise for completing a long-term, intensive research project
* Alignment with the goals of OCRF
* Ability to contribute to an inclusive and supportive community of undergraduate researchers

**Application Cover Page**

**Personal Information**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Gender: | | Birthday: | |
| T#: | Graduation Year: | | # completed credits: | |
| Major(s): | | Minor(s)/Concentration(s): | | GPA: |

**Contact Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Email: | Cell #: | OCMR #: |
| Permanent Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: |

**Eligibility**

|  |
| --- |
| Please check any of the following that apply to you: ☐ First Generation ☐ Low Income |
| ☐ Black/African Descent ☐ Asian Descent ☐ Native American  ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Middle Eastern Descent ☐ Latinx |

**Project Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Title: | |
| Does this project require regulatory approval?  ☐ IRB ☐ IACUC ☐ No | If so, have you received approval?  ☐ Yes ☐ I will by May 2020 ☐ Not Applicable |

**Research Mentor’s Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mentor: | Mentor’s Department: |
| Mentor’s Email: | Mentor’s Phone Ext: |

**Academic References’ Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st Recommender: | Email: |
| 2nd Recommender: | Email: |

**Student’s Signature:**

☐ I affirm that all information submitted through this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge

☐ I affirm that all the information provided on this application resulted from my own work and is not replicated from another source

If I am awarded OCRF:

☐ I agree to engage in full time (40 hours per week) research during the summers of 2020 and 2021

☐ I agree to conduct my research with the highest ethical standards

☐ I agree to be in residence at Oberlin College for the summer of 2020

☐ I agree that I will not commit to any other major obligations such as employment or course work during the summers of 2020 and 2021

☐ I agree to attend all required workshops and community building events

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

**Mentor’s Signature:**

If my student is awarded OCRF:

☐ I agree to serve as the mentor for the student listed on this application

☐ I agree to be in residence at Oberlin College for the majority of summer (June and July) 2020 and to make arrangements for continued mentorship of my mentee if I will be away

☐ I agree to meet with my mentee in person at least once a week for the majority of the program

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

**Department/Program Chair’s Signature:**

☐ I support the enclosed application

☐ I agree to help the student find another mentor if the current mentor is unable to continue mentoring the student

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

**Research Proposal Section**

**\*\*\*Completed by the student under the guidance of the mentor\*\*\***

1. **Background and Literature Review (1500 characters or less):** Provide a brief introduction to your research project. Please keep in mind that individuals on the selection committee come from a diverse array of academic backgrounds. Thus, your descriptions should be targeted to a general academic audience and provide enough background information for us to evaluate the rest of your proposal. Your introduction should address the following questions: In what research field would you place your proposed research project? What work has already been published in this field?

Provide the full citation for any references used in the above section:

1. **Research Question or Critical Problem (1500 characters or less):** Discuss your initial research question or critical problem for your proposed project. How does your research question address a gap in knowledge in your field? Why is your research question important to your field and the common good?

1. **Methodology (1500 characters or less):** Describe the methods that you will use to address your research question. Why are these methods the most appropriate for your research question? Again, you should keep in mind the broad academic backgrounds of individuals on the selection committee and ensure that they understand what your research would involve and how your methods would allow you to address your research question.

1. **Ethics Statement (1500 characters or less):** If appropriate to your project, discuss any ethical issues raised by your research question or methodology. For example, would your research involve collecting data from a vulnerable population? How will you mitigate these issues? A response is required for any project requiring IRB or IACUC approval.

1. If appropriate to your field, discuss your **anticipated findings and/or hypotheses (1500 characters or less):** Based on the information presented in your background and literature review, what do you expect to find from your research? Why do you expect these findings? How will your findings address your research question?

1. Provide **a timeline and/or strategic plan** for how you will complete your research project over the course of your first and second summers in OCRF. If you plan to continue working on your research project during the academic year, you may include goals for the academic year in your timeline/strategic plan.

1. **Final Product (1500 characters or less):** What will you produce as a result of your research (e.g. academic manuscript, research poster, Honor’s proposal, etc.). How will you share or disseminate the findings of your research? Be sure to specify the products from both the first and second summers (e.g. poster of research findings after the first summer and manuscript of research findings after the second summer).

**Personal Statement Section**

**\*\*\*Completed by the student\*\*\***

1. Why are you interested in academic research and your proposed research project in particular? (1000 characters or less)

1. What are your academic and career goals? How will your participation in this program and a long-term research project help you achieve these goals? (1000 characters or less)

1. OCRF offers a community of individuals that will support, offer accountability for, and inspire each other to conduct excellent academic research. How will you contribute to this environment? (1000 characters or less)

1. OCRF aims to increase the diversity of academic researchers and is intended for students underrepresented in their fields of research. How would your participation in OCRF promote the goals of the program? (1000 characters or less)

**Mentoring Plan**

**\*\*\*Completed by the student and mentor in collaboration\*\*\***

1. What knowledge and research skills are necessary to complete the proposed research project (e.g. reading the literature on the use African American Vernacular English in 20th century literature, mastering the technique of Western Blotting, learning how to design an appropriate survey, etc.)? (1000 characters or less)

1. How will the student acquire the knowledge and research skills mentioned above? (1000 characters or less)

1. Why is the chosen mentor best suited to serve as the research mentor for the proposed project? (1000 characters or less)

1. Given that a key component of OCRF is mentored research and that mentors are required to meet in person with their mentees at least weekly, will the mentor be away from campus during the summer? If so, how long and how will the student be supported during these absences? (1000 characters or less)

1. For students proposing independent projects, discuss how structure, accountability, and training on the methods needed to complete the project will be provided to the student by the mentor. (1000 characters or less)

1. For students joining ongoing collaborative projects initially designed by their mentors, describe how the student’s independence will be promoted and what specific role(s) the student will have in the project. (1000 characters or less)