

## **2021 Research Funding Announcement**

### **W.H.R. Rivers Undergraduate Research Awards**

The Medicine and Society Program at Washington University provides a limited amount of funding to support undergraduate student research in medical social science, public health, and related disciplines. Named after the pioneering researcher and scholar in medical anthropology, the W.H.R. Rivers Awards are designed to help undergraduate students conduct meaningful research projects in the social science of health. **The awards are designed for current junior or senior undergraduate students intending to complete a Senior Honors Thesis or Capstone project in a social science discipline.**

Three different types of Rivers Awards are available:

- 1) **Rivers Summer Award** – these awards support student research projects which are conducted over an 8-12-week period during the summer, and which require a higher level of funding due to travel or other significant research expenses. Students who receive a Rivers Summer Award are expected to complete a **Senior Honors Thesis** in a social science discipline based on their research activities. Maximum award \$2,500.
- 2) **Rivers Honors Award** – these awards support student research projects which may be conducted anytime during the summer or academic school year. Students who receive a Rivers Honors Award are expected to complete a **Senior Honors Thesis** in a social science discipline based on their research activities. Maximum award \$500.
- 3) **Rivers Capstone Award** - these awards support student research projects which may be conducted anytime during the summer or academic school year. Students who receive a Rivers Capstone Award are expected to complete a **Capstone project** in a social science discipline based on their research activities. Maximum award \$250.

Grant funds may be used to cover project expenses, travel costs, summer living expenses, enrollment in research-related training programs, or other legitimate costs. Recipients will be expected to present their research findings at an undergraduate research symposium in the Fall semester of 2021. Please note: for research activities involving human subjects, nominees must obtain approval from the University's Human Research Protection Office (<http://hrpohome.wustl.edu/>) before funds can be awarded. **Applicants should outline a clear plan to obtain HRPO approval before embarking upon the research project.** All awards are considered taxable income to students.

**COVID-Related conditions:** Owing to COVID-19, please provide a detailed description of your research plans if conditions require a return to fully remote research; this will likely mean providing TWO research plans (1 for research that you plan to conduct in-person or in a lab, and 1 if your research must be completed fully remotely). Please develop these two plans with your research mentor and make sure that they approve your alternate research plan. We want to ensure that students will be able to have a productive summer research experience, even if travel is not feasible, physical presence in a lab or office space is not possible, or social-distancing is necessary for community safety.

**Application procedure:** A complete application consists of the following items:

- (1) **Research proposal:** Students should submit a brief (one-page) description of the research idea, location in which the research will be conducted, research methods, plan for human subjects approval (if necessary), and data analysis approach.

(2) Alternative research proposal: provide a detailed description of your research plans if conditions require a return to fully remote research. Note any changes to the budget, as well. This should be a complete proposal, inclusive of all of the necessary details as (1) above.

(3) Budget: This is a detailed outline of how the funds will be spent to meet the goals and objectives of the research project. Note: due to COVID precautions, this year (international) travel expenses will need to be carefully justified and outlined as many countries outside the US have highly restrictive COVID-related visa acquisition, quarantine, and testing policies, which may change in the coming months as global health data continues to emerge about the virus and its various emerging strains.

(4) Mentor: Students must identify a faculty member who has agreed to supervise the research project and serve as the faculty point person for IRB submission (if necessary). Email or written approval from the faculty mentor must be included with the application.

***Application Deadline***: Applications for 2021 Summer Awards are due on **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm**. Applications for Honors and Capstone Awards will be accepted on a rolling basis. Send all application materials (electronic submissions required) to Alyse Kuhlman [akuhlman@wustl.edu](mailto:akuhlman@wustl.edu)