

**CALL FOR STUDENT APPLICATIONS**  
**Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA)**  
**Issued: February 2, 2017**  
**Student Applications DUE: NOON, March 2, 2017**  
**Award Notification Date: March 17, 2017**  
**Award Acceptance Letters DUE: NOON, April 3, 2017**

***– Please Share this Announcement with your Students –***

**TO: Faculty in the Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics**  
**FROM: Mark R. Hoffmann, Ph.D., ND EPSCoR Associate Project Director**  
**RE: Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA)**

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The North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA) program. AURA provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to participate in faculty-mentored research projects at the University of North Dakota. The goal of AURA is to encourage undergraduate students to consider a research career in Science, Engineering, or Mathematics.

AURA participants can earn \$12.50/hour up to a maximum of \$5,000 for a total of 10 weeks of full-time research activities during the time period of May 16 - August 15, 2017. During the 2017 fall semester, AURA students may continue to earn \$12.50/hour. Students may work up to 10 hours/week (earning a maximum of \$1,500) of continuing research during the time period of August 22 – December 31, 2017. During the spring semester, AURA students may continue to earn \$12.50/hour by working up to 10 hours/week (earning a maximum of \$1,500) of continuing research during the time period of January 3 – April 30, 2018.

**Student Eligibility and Limits:**

An applicant must be an undergraduate student enrolled at the University of North Dakota. Furthermore, an applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S. Students must have sophomore status by May 2017 and NOT graduate prior to May 2019. *Students who have not had a previous AURA award will have priority.* Students may not be enrolled in regular or correspondence courses and conduct AURA research during the summer months concurrently. However, to maintain student status at the university, they may be eligible to enroll in a summer independent study course for their research and receive academic credit. The independent study course relating to their summer research must be approved by the faculty mentor. Participants must present a poster on their research at the annual ND EPSCoR State Conference. AURA students are also expected to apply for at least one nationally competitive undergraduate scholarship, such as the *Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program*. ND EPSCoR strongly discourages students having more than one research position on campus while an AURA student; exceptions require the approval of all supervisors.

**Check List (in the following order, submit only an electronic version in a single pdf file to [carla.kellner@research.und.edu](mailto:carla.kellner@research.und.edu) via email attachment).**

1. Completed application form (must be typed) available at <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/funding-opportunities/opportunities-students/aura-student-und/>

2. Essay (three-page limit (single-line spaced, one-sided pages), font size no smaller than 11 point)

**Essay Guidelines:**

- Briefly discuss your plans, including those after you graduate from UND. Specifically address why you wish to participate in the AURA program and why you chose the research topic that you did.
- Describe your plans and strategy to apply for national merit research scholarships.
- Describe your most noteworthy scholarly achievements.

3. Transcript: An unofficial copy of the student's transcript is acceptable.

4. Resume

5. Two Letters of Recommendation from faculty familiar with your academic accomplishments must be submitted directly to [carla.kellner@research.und.edu](mailto:carla.kellner@research.und.edu); letters must be received via email attachment PRIOR to NOON, March 2, 2017. ***Late recommendation letters will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure that faculty have sufficient time to complete their letters by the deadline.***

ND EPSCoR highly recommends that applicants contact and discuss their research interest(s) with the professor(s) who have volunteered to serve as mentors. The complete list of research topics, abstracts and faculty mentors are posted at <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/funding-opportunities/opportunities-students/aura-student-und/>

**Submit completed applications to:** [carla.kellner@research.und.edu](mailto:carla.kellner@research.und.edu)

Award is contingent upon continued funding from the NSF and the North Dakota State Legislature. Please direct questions to Mark Hoffmann, 701.777.2492 or [mark.hoffmann@und.edu](mailto:mark.hoffmann@und.edu)