REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Program
Issued: September 24, 2021
Application Deadline: Open Until Funds are Exhausted

www.ndepscor.ndus.edu

Limited Funding Available

- *Application Form*
- *List of ND-ACES CCBSE Researchers*
- *Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE)*

Purpose:
This program gives current junior and senior undergraduate students pursuing a B.S. STEM degree at a four-year institution (or a two-year institution granting B.S. STEM degrees) an opportunity to perform research within the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE). *For more information about the CCBSE, see the link at the top of this page.*

URA applicants must be enrolled at one of the following eligible institutions:
- One of the ND-ACES participating institutions:
    - four tribal colleges/universities (TCUs) located in ND - Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC), Sitting Bull College (SBC) or Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC);
    - three ND-ACES participating primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs) - Dickinson (DSU), Mayville (MaSU), or Valley City (VCSU) State Universities;
    - master's college/university (MCU) – Minot State University (MiSU); or
    - two research universities (RUs) - NDSU or UND.
- One of the five North Dakota University System (NDUS) community colleges (CCs) located in ND - Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College, North Dakota State College of Science, or Williston State College.

Program Description:
URA awardees will conduct up to 18 months of research under the direction of a ND-ACES CCBSE researcher *(see list of researchers and their locations at the top of this page*).

The URA is a six-month (January 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2022) award that is renewable for up to one additional year (July 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2023). URA awardees will receive $14/hour up to:
- $6,580 in Year 1 (January 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2022) for up to 10 hours/week during 2021-22 academic year and up to 40 hours/week during the 2022 summer.
- $12,740 in Year 2 (July 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2023) for up to 10 hours/week during the 2022-23 academic year and up to 40 hours/week during the 2022 and 2023 summers.

URA awardees must be a full-time student in a STEM discipline each fall and spring semester and will be required to sustain satisfactory performance on the CCBSE research (as assessed by the CCBSE faculty mentor). URA awardees will also be required to produce a poster presentation and present it

at the ND EPSCoR Annual State Conference, typically held in April of each year.

Funding for the first six months of this award (January 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2022) will be from Year 2 ND-ACES funding from NSF. Funding for the renewable second year of this award (July 1, 2022 [or as accepted] – June 30, 2023) is contingent upon the receipt of Year 3 ND-ACES funding from NSF.

Applicant Eligibility:
During the award period, applicants must be a junior or senior undergraduate student pursuing a STEM B.S. degree at a four-year institution (or a two-year institution granting B.S. STEM degrees) – this includes students who transferred from one ND-ACES participating institution to another or from an eligible CC to an ND-ACES participating institution to complete a B.S. STEM degree.

We highly encourage applications from students who are members of groups that are traditionally not represented in STEM disciplines.

Application requirements

1) Email a single PDF version of your full application to ndepscor@ndus.edu with the subject: *Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Application*
   - Completed application form (link provided at the top of this page)
   - One-page (maximum) statement of your research objective(s)
   - One-page (maximum) statement regarding your professional goals.
   - Transcript confirming that you are currently enrolled in a STEM degree program and have achieved junior status.
2) Letter of recommendation from chosen CCBSE Track-1 researcher. The researcher should email a letter of recommendation to ndepscor@ndus.edu with the subject: *ND EPSCoR URA letter of support for (student name)*.

Award Announcements and Additional Information:
Applications will be evaluated by a three-member committee comprised of the ND-ACES PROmoting Sustainable Partnerships in Education and Research (PROSPER) Partnerships and Collaborations co-lead (Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, ND EPSCoR State Project Administrator), the PROSPER Education and Workforce Development co-lead (Shireen Alemadi, ND EPSCoR STEM Manager), and one of the four TCU Nurturing American Tribal Undergraduate Research and Education (NATURE) Coordinators. Funds are expected to be available January 1, 2022. Awards are contingent upon continued funding from NSF and the State of North Dakota.

Please direct questions to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, ND EPSCoR State Project Administrator at (701) 231-7516 or jean.ostrom@ndus.edu