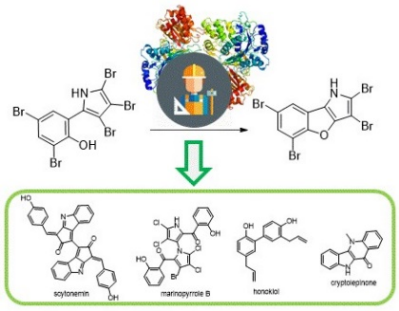
Summer NSF Research Experience Application

A. Introduction



This is the application form for conducting cutting edge research funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) during the summer at Waynesburg University. If selected, a stipend and campus housing will be provided for two months of fulltime research and training to become an independent scientist. Recipients will be competitively selected.

This funded project is highly interdisciplinary in nature and it spans across synthetic organic chemistry, biochemistry, analytical chemistry, molecular biology, and genetics. We are interested in applying the power of bio-engineering to synthesis of molecules that can lead the development of novel drugs for cancer and infectious diseases. For more information, please visit the NSF website (https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2102225) and watch this intro video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3FElmrwQek).

B. Eligibility and Selection

Any current college student is eligible to apply. You do not need to be a student at Waynesburg University to apply, but you must be currently enrolled either at a 2-year or a 4-year institution.

Selection will be made based on the applicant's documented level of aspiration for a career in biomedical research / science (younger students like freshmen are encouraged to apply if you plan to work on the project beyond the summer), interest in the project(s), prior research experience, competency in the lab, recommendation by other faculty, relevant grades, contribution to diversification of the STEM workforce, logistical and budgetary considerations, and fit for the research group. As this program is accountable to NSF and ultimately to the US tax payers who fund NSF, only students who will be able to contribute well to the progress of the project will be selected. Contingent upon funding availability and feasibility, your NSF-supported status may be continued after the summer (please discuss this with Dr. Suyama and fill out a renewal application form). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Dr. Suyama.

Particular preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate 1) being able to take initiatives, 2) interest in pursuing a PhD in STEM, 3) availability and interest in continuing research at WU beyond the summer, 4) ability to persevere through challenges, and 5) lab competency in a research setting. Selection considerations will be made holistically.

C. Timeline

Summer Research Team 2022

The deadline for submitting a completed application form is March 13, 2023. Please send the 1) completed form, 2) your **transcript** (unofficial ok), and 3) your **curriculum vitae** to Tak Suyama (tsuyama@waynesburg.edu). Recommendation letter(s) should be submitted by March 17, 2023. Late applications may be considered if there are not enough qualified applicants. Selected candidates will be given remote interviews. You will be notified of the decision by April 24, 2023. The in-person research program period is projected to be **May 22 – July 21** (there may be some flexibility with the dates). A remote training is planned before the in-person start date.

Please provide brief answers that fit in the given spaces on this application form.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Year: Select one

Please choose one. Not just in credits, but in actual year currently (3rd year = junior, etc).

School Name & Address: _____

Major: _____ **GPA**: _____

Email: _____ **Phone**: _____

Age: _____ **Citizenship Status**: Select one

Home Address (during summer): _____

Career Aspirations

1. What is your career goal immediately after you graduate from college? Why?

2. What is your long-term career goal? Why?

Academic Accomplishments

1. What experiences have you had that will contribute to the grant-funded research project?

2. What strengths/skills/qualifications/qualities do you have that will contribute to the grant-funded research project? How might you contribute to the diversification of STEM workforce?

3. What other activity(ies) will you participate in during the summer? How might they contribute or detract from your research efforts? Please note that the expectation is that you have no other obligations during the two months period.

4. What may be your weakness(es) as a research scholar candidate? How might you compensate for / overcome it(them)?

Project Specific Questions

1. Do you have an interest in working on the project after the summer during the academic year? Select on

2. What is this project about? Please describe your current understanding of the project goals and our methods of achieving them.

3. What specifically do you hope to accomplish during the two months period?

4. What made you interested in this research project?

5. Are you interested in working on chemical synthesis required in this project? Select one

6. How well do you receive constructive criticism?

7. Have you had a fulltime job before? If so, how was your experience? If you have only had a part time job before, please comment on anything you have gained from that experience.

Recommendation

If you are a student at Waynesburg University, please have one recommendation letter (can be informal) emailed directly to Tak Suyama (tsuyama@waynesburg.edu). If you are not a Waynesburg student, please have **two** recommendation letters sent to Dr. Suyama. At least one letter should be from a faculty member who is familiar with you. The letters should address the aspiration you have for a career in research / science, your competency in the lab, your reliability, your intellectual capacity to analyze complex ideas, your ability to take initiatives and face challenges, and/or how you might contribute to the project and the research group to the extent that the recommender is familiar with. Who will be your recommenders (so we know to expect a letter)?