



Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Fellowship for Graduate Students in the Natural Sciences 2009-2010 Guidelines

Posted January 7, 2009

Applications due Friday, February 6, 2009

Information sessions:

Thursday, Jan 15, 5:00 pm; Friday, Jan 16, 3:00 pm

Both sessions will be in White Hall 112

With joint funding from the Graduate School and the Dean's Office of Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Emory College's Office for Undergraduate Education will award two fellowships for 2009-2010 to advanced graduate students in the natural sciences at Emory. Fellows will work approximately 10-15 hours per week in the Undergraduate Research Partner Program, an Emory College program promoting undergraduate research for students who are new researchers.

The fellowship period is 12 months, August 1st 2009 through July 30th 2010. The stipend will be \$10,000 for a 12-month fellowship, awarded on top of the student's regular stipend. In some cases, a prorated 10-month fellowship (August-May) may be arranged.

Fellows will participate in planning and administration of the Research Partner Program in the Office for Undergraduate Education. The fellows will be expected to work jointly during the academic year to develop and plan research skill-building workshops for students in the Research Partner Program. Workshop topics generally focus on research methods, research ethics, visiting research sites or presentation of research in various settings. Some sessions will be led by graduate fellows; other workshops can be led others on campus with special expertise. In addition, each fellow works closely with a small group of students in group and individual meetings to follow their progress and provide research support. When necessary, graduate fellows will work with students and their faculty mentors to solve problems that emerge. During the summer session, SIRE graduate fellows will work with the SURE program in the Center for Science Education. SIRE and SURE jointly fund undergraduate students to work full-time on campus in research labs for 10 weeks during the summer. The graduate fellows will organize supplemental activities and workshops for these students over the summer.

Eligibility

To be considered for the fellowship, students must:

1. be full time students in a doctoral program, in good standing both in the Graduate School and in their program.
2. be in doctoral candidacy at the time of their application.
3. have no other employment, since the goal is to work fully on the dissertation research in their lab, except for the time required in the Research Partners Program.
4. have the support of their dissertation chairs to apply.
5. submit complete applications.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their experience in research methods, interest in mentoring undergraduate students involved in research, relevant coursework (if applicable), and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's research and teaching abilities.

Electronic Application

Applications should be emailed to GS-SIREFell@listserv.cc.emory.edu. **This listserv accepts emails only from senders with an emory.edu email address.**

A complete application will contain

1. a Graduate School fellowship cover sheet, posted on the Graduate School website (go to New and Current Students, then to Forms);
2. a curriculum vitae;
3. a registrar's copy of the Emory transcript (unofficial copy issued to the student is acceptable, but it must be in official format for ease of reading);
4. a cover letter outlining your dissertation project, including progress thus far and a schedule for completion, teaching experience and interests, and why you have an interest in mentoring undergraduate researchers; and
5. a research skills essay (see below).

Submit all items as one pdf file attached to the nomination email, containing items 1-5 in that order. That is, send one email, with "last name, first name, program" in the subject line, and with one pdf file attached. Items that exist only on paper should be scanned into pdf format.

In addition, you will need **a faculty letter of recommendation**, preferably from your dissertation adviser. This letter should assess teaching ability, identify strong research skills and experiences, and comment on scholarly promise and progress on the dissertation. Ask your faculty advisor to email his or her letter to the SIRE Fellowship listserv, GS-SIREFell@listserv.cc.emory.edu.

On the Graduate School website, in the same place as the Graduate School fellowship cover sheet, you will find a document with advice about making pdf files. Start this process early to make sure you will be able to produce the pdf file.

Research Skills Essay

With your application, include an essay that addresses each of the following questions in no more than one page each.

1. Have you worked with undergraduates involved in research? Please explain the context of this involvement, and what you learned about the undergraduate research experience from your perspective. If you have not worked with undergraduate researchers, please explain how your experience will help you support undergraduate researchers in the SIRE program.
2. Describe the research approaches and methods you use in your own work. In what other approaches and research methods do you have significant experience and feel comfortable offering instruction?

3. Describe a workshop for new undergraduate researchers that you could lead yourself. Be sure to explain the reasons for choosing this topic and how you would engage the students during the workshop.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by a faculty committee convened by the Graduate School.

Award Notifications

Applicants will be notified by February 21, 2009.

Questions?

Contact

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