

Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Summer Research Partner Program

Summer 2009

Deadline for Applicants: materials sent via email to SIRERPP@learnlink.emory.edu on **March 10, 2009**

Checklist:

- Application Form (filled out and emailed to SIRERPP@learnlink.emory.edu)**
- Project Proposal and Tentative Timeline (Word Document or PDF emailed to SIRERPP@learnlink.emory.edu)**
- Letter of Support from faculty mentor (filled out and emailed to SIRERPP@learnlink.emory.edu)**

Program Description: The Summer Research Partner Program provides a summer stipend and on-campus housing for Emory College students working as a research assistant on a faculty project. This funding is open to students working on faculty projects in the humanities and social sciences. Students in the natural sciences are funded through the SURE program and are not eligible to apply through the SIRE program for this summer opportunity. Students who are graduating in May 2009 or will be graduating during Summer 2009 are not eligible to apply.

Students have four options for participation in the program:

1. A student can work full-time (40 hours/week) as a research assistant on a faculty project during the summer. The project proposal should be written by the student and include a description of the faculty project and the student's role.
2. A student can work half-time as a research assistant for a faculty project and half-time on a related independent research project of his/her own. The project proposal should be written by the student and include a description of both the faculty project and the student's own project.
3. A student can work half-time as a research assistant on a faculty project and in addition, enroll in two summer courses. In such cases, a student is eligible for only a half stipend and this will be posted to his/her financial aid account. The project proposal should be written by the student and include a description the faculty project and of the classes in which the student intends to enroll.
4. A small number of places will be reserved for students working with the Transforming Community Project (TCP). These students will work half-time with a project director or related faculty member and half-time on their own TCP-related research project. See the TCP web site <http://transform.emory.edu/> for a description of this strategic plan initiative. Students who are interested in this option should contact Dr. Jody Usher, TCP Co-Director at jusher@emory.edu or 404-727-9545 in advance to discuss specific research objectives and to draft the proposal. Otherwise, this application will match the requirements in #2 option.

A special fellowship open to Emory Scholars supports one Scholar in the SIRE Summer Research Partner program. If you are an Emory Scholar, please apply as above, but indicate that you would like to be considered for the Garland Richmond Fellowship.

In addition to their research obligations, program participants are required to attend all program activities, including regular meetings, and to present their research on campus during a fall research symposium. During the summer, regular meetings will include events during the day and dinners one evening each week.

Proposal FAQs

Project Proposal and Timeline (approximately 2-5 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font) All applicants will need to provide a description of the faculty project on which they will work. Those who wish to undertake their own independent research project will also need to describe their own project.

As is noted below, both parts of the proposal should include similar elements. However, the description of the student project should be more detailed, convincing the committee that the student has given the project sufficient thought and preparation to undertake it with minimal supervision. Those choosing option 2 should expect to write a longer proposal. All proposals should be written by the **student applicant**, though in close consultation with the faculty mentor.

Faculty project: This proposal should give a brief summary of the faculty project and should include the following:

- What focused question or problem is the research/creative project designed to address? What hypothesis will the research test? What premise underlies the creative project? You should be able to state this basic goal succinctly and clearly.
- Make reference to the scholarly literature or tradition which this project addresses. Please appropriately cite your references, using a form appropriate to your discipline.
- What role will the student research assistant play in the research over the summer? What research methods will be used to collect, analyze, and interpret data or materials? On what aspect of the research will the applicant play in the project, and is additional training necessary?

Student Project: The description should be as complete and detailed as possible, and is a blueprint for your project. This explains your project objective, the methods you plan to use and the significance of the project. Be sure that the proposal can be understood by people who are not in your immediate field of study—the selection committee is multidisciplinary. In general, you should include the following elements:

- What focused question or problem is your research/creative project designed to address? What hypothesis will your research test? What premise underlies your creative project? You should be able to state this basic goal succinctly and clearly.
- What scholarly contribution will your research make? Make reference to the scholarly literature or tradition which your project addresses. Please appropriately cite your references, using a form appropriate to your discipline.
- What research methods will you use to collect, analyze, and interpret your data or materials? Or, what media and creative process will you employ in your creative arts project? In describing your research methods, be sure that you are as detailed as possible, and that you indicate your preparation and training for undertaking this research.
- Indicate if your research involves work with human subjects in interviews, surveys, experiments or other research activities. If so, you will need to follow university guidelines for research with human subjects, as specified by the Institutional Research Board (IRB). Please review the guidelines, and indicate whether you have begun the process of seeking IRB approval. Such approval is necessary before we release funds for research with human subjects, but not before you apply for SIRE support.
- What resources—people, archives, research centers, labs, and so on—will you draw upon to conduct your project?

Timeline: At the end of your proposal, please include a week-by-week timeline of what you intend to accomplish.

Letter of support from your faculty mentor

Your faculty mentor is the faculty member for whom you will be working this summer. He/she should indicate his/her willingness to work with you and plans to oversee the work you do. This letter of support should discuss your academic background, your work ethic, and your overall potential as an independent researcher and scholar. Your mentor should comment on your proposal and indicate your preparation to undertake the proposed work.

Academic Transcript

Your course transcript confirms that you have the necessary background to succeed in our program. An unofficial Emory University transcript will be added to your application by the SIRE office. If you have spent more than a semester at another university or college, you need to include a copy of your academic transcript with your application.