

Mentoring Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research (MUIR) FAQs

Purpose

The MUIR Program was established and is funded to support the mentoring of undergraduates by faculty members as they contribute to interdisciplinary research.

Who may apply?

Any member of the Stanford faculty may apply on behalf of an undergraduate to work as a paid research assistant with them and their lab group. Faculty members may name a particular undergraduate (this is preferred) or the Woods Institute will assist them in identifying potential applicants, and the awarded faculty mentor will make the selection. Funding priority goes to Stanford Woods Institute fellows, affiliated faculty and lecturers.

Funds may only support current Stanford undergraduates. Co-terminal MS or MA students may be supported only if their undergraduate degree will not be conferred before the conclusion of the project.

If I am a student how can I apply?

Students wishing to initiate a project will need to approach a faculty member who is willing to apply on the student's behalf. Interested Stanford students may speak with a faculty member about possible opportunities and can assist the faculty with the application process. Stanford undergraduates may also contact Brian Sharbono, Program Manager, sharbono@stanford.edu, to be placed on a MUIR contact list in the event that an applying faculty member has not identified a student for their application. Please list 'MUIR Student Request' in the subject line of your email. Any unfilled openings will be sent to Stanford students on this contact list.

What are the expectations for the program?

The program is designed to promote mentoring relationships that enable undergraduates to contribute to research that aids in the development of solutions to environmental challenges. These mentoring relationships often provide a bridge between introductory coursework and more advanced independent study, and even aid the student in preparing for honors or senior projects. (NOTE: The MUIR Woods program does not fund research directly related to honors or senior projects or theses.) The tasks performed by the student should engage him/her intellectually and involve limited clerical work. With his/her mentor, each student will determine the hours to be worked, which will be up to 40 hours a week during the ten week summer term for a \$6,400 stipend (\$16/hr). Part of this stipend may be used to offset travel expenses. For questions about research policy, please consult the [Research Policy Handbook](#).

How often are faculty expected to meet with their students?

The faculty member applying for the grant is expected to meet with their student **at least** every two weeks during the summer.

Is field work permitted?

Summer projects may involve some fieldwork, but the student must be able to meet with the faculty mentor every other week of the summer project period. Students may not conduct research in countries on the US State Department's Travel Warnings list.

What are the additional requirements of this program?

Students are required to take EARTH 100 Research Preparation for Undergraduates for 1 credit hour the spring quarter before their internship occurs. Those students working on campus during the summer are required to attend a weekly lunchtime seminar co-sponsored by the Woods Institute and the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences (EEES). At this seminar, faculty present their research; the talk is followed by a lunch where students can continue conversing with the speaker. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE) requires that students present a poster at one of the two Symposia for Undergraduate Research and Public Service (SURPS & ASURPS) held each year. These Stanford-wide events take place over Homecoming weekend in the fall and Admit weekend in the spring.

What are the criteria for selection?

Priority is given to Woods Institute fellows, affiliated faculty and lecturers. Research must be interdisciplinary and relate to at least one of the following topic areas: climate, ecosystem services and conservation, food security, freshwater, oceans, public health or sustainable development. Ideally a balance across disciplines and topic areas is sought. The quality of the research experience for the undergraduate and the level of involvement and mentoring by the faculty member is a key consideration in evaluating applications. Involvement from other members of the mentor's research community is a plus. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 and be enrolled at Stanford as an undergraduate in the fall or spring quarter following their internship.

Who manages the program?

[Buzz Thompson](#), Director, Woods Institute for the Environment is Faculty Lead for the Woods MUIR program.

What is the deadline?

Please apply online by 5:00 pm Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Application is available here: https://stanforduniversity.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8G764luZBKp6xLv