George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology

Summer 2016

Information and Application Form

I. General Information

The George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology provides support for original, independent research by Lawrence-campus undergraduates interested in pursuing research with an entomological focus, under the general guidance of a member of the graduate faculty. The Gould Award is not intended to provide faculty members with assistants, but students may well be associated with faculty research projects as independent investigators. The George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology is awarded on the merit of the applicant's proposal, the applicant's academic record, and recommendations from faculty members who are familiar with the applicant and the proposed project.

Up to two Gould Awards will be given to support the costs of research by KU undergraduates during the summer of 2016. Each Award will provide a fixed amount of approximately $2,400. Students may use these funds in any way they wish to support their research, e.g. supplies, photocopying costs, travel, living expenses.

To be eligible you must be an undergraduate studying on the Lawrence campus. You must be enrolled full-time this spring and must enroll full-time during the next fall semester. (Exceptions to this rule can be made, e.g., when the applicant is studying abroad during the fall semester.)

Each proposal must be sponsored by a member of the Entomology faculty who agrees to oversee the conduct and completion of the project. Recipients will be selected by a committee composed of faculty from the KU Entomology Program, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Decisions of the committee are final. Applicants will be informed of the committee's decision by no later than April 15, 2016.

II. The Application

An application consists of:

1. A completed application form (attached).
2. A proposal not to exceed five pages (following the guidelines in section IV, below)
3. A copy of the most recent Degree Progress Report form

You should deliver three hard copies of the above items to David Alexander, 5020 Haworth Hall, by 5:00 P.M. on April 1, 2016.

4. In addition, you should arrange for two supporting letters from members of the faculty (not graduate student instructors), one of whom is the project sponsor.

Both letters must be accompanied by a signed letter of reference form (attached). Letters of reference should be sent directly to Dr. David Alexander, Division of Biological Sciences, Haworth Hall (dalexander@ku.edu). They must be received by April 1, 2016. Please make a timely check with David Alexander to be sure that your letters of reference have arrived.
III. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the following criteria, all of which should be addressed in the proposal:

1. the project’s potential contribution to scientific knowledge;
2. the likelihood of completion within the available time;
3. the student's qualifications, based on ability and experience, to complete the proposed research project successfully;
4. the project's educational value for the student;
5. the sponsor's willingness and availability to oversee the research and its completion.

IV. The Proposal

Your proposal is the basis for evaluation of your project. An outstanding academic record and glowing recommendations cannot overcome the deficiencies of a poor proposal. Your proposal should be clearly written, therefore, it should be substantive and detailed but it should also be understandable by an intelligent, literate non-specialist. In preparing your proposal, seek the advice of your faculty sponsor. Organize your proposal so as to include the following headings:

A. Description: Describe the project, giving special attention to what your will actually do during the award period. If the project is part of a larger research program or a long-term interest, make clear what part of the larger whole is to be supported by the Gould Award and completed during the term of the award. Above all, be sure to identify the aim of your project and to explain how you intend to accomplish that aim.

B. Significance: Make clear what will be discovered or created and why this is important, both to those who are in your field and to those outside it. Also explain how the project will contribute to your education.

C. Applicant's qualifications: Describe the background and preparation that qualify you for this project. You may wish to mention past research, independent study, courses taken in the area of the proposed research, bibliographic research already done, related projects already completed, etc. In short, show the Selection Committee how prepared you are to undertake the project.

These guidelines are intended to help you prepare a good proposal. They are not meant to confuse or constrain. Where they are not applicable to your project, consult with your faculty sponsor and use your best judgment. Feel free to consult with Dr. David Alexander.

V. Research Reports

Students who receive a George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology are required to file an interim report with David Alexander on the progress of their research by September 9, 2016. They are also required to file a final report on their completed research by December, 2016. They are encouraged to consider presenting their results at an Entomology Program informal seminar.