

# **2016 STUDENT APPLICATION**

## **CHST Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**

Application/Proposal Due Date: Friday, February 26

Mentor Recommendation Due Date: Friday, February 26

Student/Mentor Notification Date: Thursday, March 31

CHST's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program will be an exciting journey for this year's participants. Students accepted into the program are awarded a \$3,500 stipend to work on a targeted research project for 10 weeks. As part of the application process, students need to identify a faculty mentor who will assist them on research design and provide overall oversight. Past summer fellows are eligible to apply for this year's program. At the culmination of their research, participants will be required to present their findings at either the Summer Undergraduate Research and Innovation Symposium held in early August or any other national scientific conference. There is a limited number of fellowship stipends available this year. Before you submit your application, you should discuss your project with your mentor and any other adviser(s) who will be helping you plan or complete your project. Your application and proposal should be written by you to demonstrate understanding of the project, mastery of the material, and ability to produce professional work.

**All materials including the mentor recommendation form must be submitted electronically to Dr. Bolaji Thomas (bntsbi@rit.edu), by Friday, February 26.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I AM SELECTED AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAM:**

**\* ALL STATEMENTS MUST BE CHECKED**

My research project will be conducted with the support and collaboration of an RIT mentor (identified in this application).

With the approval of my mentor, I will present my research findings at the Summer Symposium, August (date TBD), or any other scientific conference.

I will notify my mentor if I withdraw from the program for personal or any other reason, and I understand any future stipends and any other support received under this program will cease.

I understand that the stipend and any other support received through this program is taxable income and will be reported to the IRS annually as follows: Non-Resident Alien Participant: May be subject to 14% withholding based upon tax treaty and reported on Form 1042-S. All Other Participants: No withholding, reported on Form 1099 (if payments exceed \$600 in a calendar year).

I understand that stipends/subsistence allowances received under federal programs to offset educational expenses may affect other financial aid that is currently part of my financial aid award. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will make that determination consistent with their published policy regarding outside scholarships and will notify me if there are any changes to my award.

I am a student in good standing and enrolled in a degree program at RIT leading to a baccalaureate degree.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

### All fields are required

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RIT UNIVERSITY ID # \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # WHEN AWAY FROM RIT \_\_\_\_\_

I AM A U.S. Citizen/Permanent Resident or Non-US Citizen: \* Your answer to this question confirms your understanding that all applicable stipend and any other support received through this program is taxable income and will be reported to the IRS annually. **(CHOOSE ONE)**

U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident/Green Card Holder

Non-US Citizen

## RIT DEGREE INFORMATION

### All fields are required

WHAT IS YOUR COLLEGE DEPARTMENT? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT IS YOUR GPA? \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE RIT HONORS PROGRAM?

Yes

No

WHAT WILL YOUR YEAR LEVEL BE THIS SUMMER? (**CHECK ONE**)

1st Year

2nd Year

3rd Year

4th Year

5th Year

WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO GRADUATE? (EX. MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

### **PRIMARY MENTOR'S INFORMATION**

**All fields are required.**

PRIMARY MENTOR'S FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY MENTOR'S LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY MENTOR'S EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY MENTOR'S PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY MENTOR'S COLLEGE/PROGRAM AT RIT \_\_\_\_\_

### **RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

Have you previously participated in this summer undergraduate research fellowship (SURF) program? (**CHECK ONE**)

yes

no

What is the name of the department/program where research will be conducted?

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What is the title of your research project?

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**Complete each of the following sections making sure to adhere to specific guidelines:**

- 1. Research project abstract:** Provide a 200-word (or less) abstract that concisely states the aims of your research (ie. What are the specific questions you seek to answer? What are your specific goals and objectives for the summer?)

## **2. Research project proposal**

- A. Background, problem statement, and significance statement** (limit of one full page): Your proposal should include: background - provide sufficient background to help the general reader understand your project. Remember: evaluators may be from fields that are different than yours. Problem statement - clearly and logically lay out the problem or question that you will attempt to answer (again, written for the general reader). Significance statement - explicitly explain why this problem is important to research. Provide citations from relevant literature. Identify who will find this work interesting (industry, faculty, other researchers.) Describe the importance of identifying a solution to your problem. Describe what makes your problem original/unique, innovative, and worthy of being funded. Identify what is known and not known in this area of inquiry.

**B. Aims, goals, and outcomes** (limit of one full page): Your proposal should include: aims and goals - planned achievements and benchmarks that can lead you to a desired outcome. Outcomes - the lasting artifacts of your research: a paper, prototype, product, patent, etc. While it is true that research often goes in unforeseen directions, success in an 11-week summer project requires well defined goals and outcomes. Plan - as specifically as possible, describe how you will attack your problem using language understandable to the general reader. Your contribution - while your mentor's oversight and support are essential, the summer research awards are awarded to students who make an independent or creative contribution. Explain what your contribution will be. Compliance issues - if your work requires compliance with published university research policies (e.g., work with human subjects, animals, hazardous material, etc) explain the steps you will take to receive the required approval.

- C. Design** (limit of one full page): Your proposal should include as specifically as possible, describe the technical or professional methodology you will use. Mention any materials or other costs your program is likely to require, and indicate whether your mentor is able to meet the project's needs.

2. **List** the courses you have completed that are relevant to your research: no description needed, simply list course number(s), course name(s), term taken, and grade (ex. MEDS 313 - Introduction to Infectious Diseases, 2151, B)

3. **List** all skills, knowledge, and other traits about you that are pertinent to your research project:

4. **Name(s) of other team member(s), if any:** RIT encourages interdisciplinary teamwork. If your proposal is part of a team project, identify the name(s) of the other team member(s) who will also be submitting applications. Be sure that you have consulted with them and that they have agreed to participate in your research.

***Signatures:***

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Student Signature

Date

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Faculty Mentor Signature

Date