



Marcelle Kranzberg Undergraduate Research Grants  
and  
Thomas F. George Undergraduate Research Grants

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:**

Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

Are you an undergraduate interested in conservation? The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center welcomes grant applications from students interested in developing research projects that answer questions about the natural world, including but not limited to animal behavior, plant diversity, biogeography, conservation policy, conservation psychology, ecology, evolution, politics or socioeconomics of conservation, population biology, genetics, sustainable development, and systematics.

Grant proposals should be developed in conjunction with an UMSL faculty sponsor. If you don't have a faculty member in mind, please refer to the list of [UMSL Biology faculty](#). We also encourage students to identify a project with a scientist at one of our partner institutions, the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) or the Saint Louis Zoo (SLZ); such proposals must have an UMSL faculty co-advisor along with the advisor from the partner institution.

#### **Guidelines:**

- **Undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Missouri - St. Louis** in any major are eligible to apply, as long as their research fits within the categories listed above. As mentioned above, applicants should be sponsored by an UMSL, MBG, and/or SLZ research staff member who work with them to develop the research proposal.
- Awards will normally range from \$500 up to \$1500.
  - Award funds can be used for field or laboratory supplies associated with the proposed work, or for travel and living expenses (if applicants will spend time away from their usual residence while conducting the research).

Along with the research grant, the student will be awarded an additional \$1500 scholarship, bringing the total possible value of the grant and scholarship combination to \$3000. Any questions regarding eligibility and budget should be directed to the Harris Center Interim Director, Dr. Patricia Parker: [pparker@umsl.edu](mailto:pparker@umsl.edu).

**To apply**, send via email the following documents as a single PDF to your faculty sponsor. Please give them enough time to respond thoughtfully and to incorporate their comments (we recommend two weeks). The finalized proposal should be forwarded by the faculty member sponsoring the research to the Interim Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center, Dr. Patricia Parker ([pparker@umsl.edu](mailto:pparker@umsl.edu)). **Proposals should be submitted as an attachment, combining the proposal and resume into ONE PDF file with the file name of your surname.pdf. NO HARD COPIES REQUIRED.**

## **Required documents:**

1. Completed **Cover Page** (see the last page of this document). The cover page will come before the first page of your proposal. There is no need to add a heading to your document.
2. **Proposal** (see proposal requirements below)
  - a. The proposal should not exceed three single-spaced pages with 12-point font and at least 1-inch margins.
  - b. Include the following sections:
    - i. *Project Description*: Include relevant background information, and specify your objectives, hypotheses, and predictions.
    - ii. *Methods*: Outline the experimental design you plan to use, including where the research will be done, techniques, equipment, and sample sizes.
    - iii. *Project Timeline*: Indicate the timing of steps to complete the project, including time to write the report. The project should be completed in 12 months or before your graduation date, whichever comes first.
    - iv. *Project Significance*: Explain both the personal and broader significance of this project—why this project is important to you and your personal, academic, and/or professional development, and also include how this project contributes to research and conservation.
  - c. Figures and tables should come after the proposal narrative, but do not count towards your page limit.
3. **Budget & Budget Justification**
  - a. The budget should contain an itemized list of research expenses up to \$1500.
  - b. Organize your budget on a table with columns indicating the item, quantity, price, justification and notes (if needed). This list can include research supplies as well as research-associated travel expenses.
  - c. A budget justification is a short explanation (one sentence or less) of why this specific item is needed for your project.
  - d. Proposal budgets should not exceed \$1500, unless the student indicates that they will take the excess from their \$1500 scholarship that accompanies the grant. Approved budgets of successful proposals will be available for 12 months after an award is made, or until graduation, whichever comes first.
4. **Literature Cited**
  - a. We accept any citation method, as long as it is consistent throughout the application. The bibliography, like the figures and tables, do not count toward the 3-page limit on the proposal text.
5. **Resume or CV** (2-page limit)

## **Deadlines**

**Fall Competition deadline: 11:59 p.m. on September 30.** Awards will be announced in October (students who received support in the previous year's Spring competition are not eligible for awards in this competition).

**Spring Competition deadline: 11:59 p.m. on February 28.** Awards will be announced in March (students who receive support in the previous year's Fall competition will not be eligible for awards in this competition).

**Recipients of these awards should provide a scientific and budget report (with receipts) within 12 months of the award date to the Interim Director, Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center. A draft letter thanking the donor should also be sent to the Interim Director.**

## **Proposal Checklist**

As you work on your proposal, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are you including all the required documents as one single PDF?
2. Does the project description include a statement of your research objectives?
3. Do you state your hypotheses?
4. Are the methods appropriate to the research question or hypothesis proposed?
5. Is the significance of the work apparent, both to someone in your research area as well as someone outside your discipline area?
6. Have you provided a project timeline?
7. Is the budget well justified and appropriate for funding by the Harris Center?
8. Did your faculty sponsor (and any additional co-advisors) have at least two weeks to review your proposal before submission?
9. Have you talked with your faculty sponsor about the need for research permits, animal care forms, or IRB (Institutional Research Board) approval?

Copies of previously funded proposals are available from the Harris Center's Business Support Specialist, Clara Schmeiderer ([cschmeiderer@umsl.edu](mailto:cschmeiderer@umsl.edu)) for review by applicants. Please note that the guidelines have changed over the years and applicants should not directly model their proposals on those funded in previous years but should follow the current guidelines as detailed above.

## **Application for Harris Center Research Grants**

*Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis*

**1. Name of applicant:**

**2. Undergraduate program:**

**3. Project title:**

**4. Project duration:**

**5. Location of fieldwork:**

**6. Total budget:**

What other sources have you or do you intend to apply to for the research outlined here? When are proposals due? Please attach a copy of the budget seeking funds from all external agencies.

**7. Amount requested from Harris Center:**

If you have received previous funding from the Harris Center, please provide: project title; award amount and date award was received. Please attach a summary of results of prior Harris Center research and explain clearly why additional funds are now necessary from the Harris Center and why these cannot be obtained elsewhere (summary should not exceed 1 single-spaced page).

**8. Abstract**

**Do not exceed this space.** *If this proposal is funded, I would be happy to have it shown to applicants developing proposals for Harris Center Research Grants in subsequent years. If you agree to this, please sign below.*

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I have reviewed the attached research proposal requesting funding from the Harris Center. Applicant's Advisor:

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