

Discover Grant Evaluation Guide

Eligibility quick-check:

- Student is registered/active for upcoming fall semester in the College of Arts & Sciences or the Hajim School of Engineering
 - Student is not receiving academic credit for the research experience (CAS 394i exempt from this University policy)
 - Student is not receiving an hourly wage or large fellowship stipend for the research experience
 - Student does not have unused RIG, HRIG, or Meliora Scholars funding
 - Student's experience is mentored by a UR faculty member
 - Student's experience is expected to last a minimum of 300 hours over the summer months
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Application completeness

- All application sections are complete and in the appropriate location
 - Resume is in 1-page PDF format and is error-free
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Written components

An excellent **research statement** will clearly communicate an understanding of project goals and responsibilities.

- Provides clear, jargon-free context for the project (situates project within the field of study)
- Clearly states primary project aims or research questions
- Provides a detailed explanation of student roles, responsibilities, and prospective direct contributions to the project. These contributions may be part of collaborative efforts with a graduate student, but should demonstrate ownership and not simple shadowing or menial labor.

An excellent **personal statement** will demonstrate the unique value and import of the research experience for personal and professional growth.

- Clearly articulates “why research?” and “why this particular research experience?”
 - Identifies alignment of goals and ambitions to the research experience
 - Articulates expectations for summer and why this experience is best suited to meet those expectations
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Supplementary materials

The **mentorship and evaluation plan** provides evidence of a high-quality, appropriately mentored experience.

- Evidence of a student-mentor conversation regarding alignment of expectations for summer research plans and student responsibilities
- Identifies and describes check-in / mechanisms to evaluate student progress
- Offers rationale for selecting student for mentorship

The OPTIONAL **letter of support** identifies the student as an exemplary candidate for research experience

- Articulates clear and specific academic, personal, and professional benefits of research experience to student