

**UConn**



**Exploring Research Opportunities: Social Sciences & Humanities**

FALL 2017

## Why are we here?

*Early exploration + preparation = strong proposal*

Let's discuss ways in which you can:

- Explore your interests
- Define a focus for a research or creative project
- Identify appropriate courses
- Find faculty mentors
- Develop a successful research proposal

## Explore Your Interests

- Read broadly
- Take courses that interest you and seize opportunities to delve more deeply into the literature
- Participate in campus events (e.g., UConn Reads events, Fusco Contemporary Issues Forum)
- Join student organizations in fields or areas of interest
- Initiate conversations with faculty, graduate students, or undergraduate students conducting research that interests you
- Bring a research lens to study abroad, internships, volunteer activities, etc.

## Define a Focus

- Move from a topic to a more specific question or problem
- Set parameters for your project (e.g., location, population, time)
- Consider what's feasible

## Identify Appropriate Courses

- Topical courses
- Research methods courses
- Independent study or independent research courses

## Find Faculty Mentors

- Learn about potential mentors by reading faculty and department websites
- Look beyond the department that corresponds to your major; try searching [lincus.uconn.edu](http://lincus.uconn.edu)
- Start conversations about research
  - Ask your professors/instructors/TAs about their current research and about how they got started. Share your research interests with them.
  - Talk to upperclassmen in your major (and in related majors) about their experiences.

## Connecting With Faculty



- Send a customized introductory email asking for an informational meeting
  - Introduce yourself, make a connection to their work, and ask for a meeting
  - Prepare to answer questions about your background and goals
  - Prepare your own questions

## Develop a Successful Proposal



- Begin early so you can draft and revise
- Seek outside readers
- Be aware of your audience
- Articulate the importance of the question/project
- Make your methodology explicit
- Demonstrate feasibility

## Research Programs at UConn

*Support and funding for undergraduate research*

## Social Sciences, Humanities, & Arts Research Experience (SHARE)

- Provides funding for research apprenticeships for students in the social sciences, humanities, and arts
- Faculty and student teams apply jointly
- Student proposal components:
  - What will you be doing?
  - Why are you interested in this project?
  - How does this project relate to your goals?

## Social Sciences, Humanities, & Arts Research Experience (SHARE)

- Eligibility:
  - Majoring or pre-majoring in the social sciences, humanities, or arts at any UConn campus
  - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> year student
  - Minimum cumulative 2.8 GPA
- Applications due **October 23, 2017**
- Includes a **\$1,500 stipend for student apprentices** and a **\$500 stipend for faculty mentors**
- Work 10 hours/week on the project in the spring semester

## Co-op Legacy Fellowship

- Supports student-designed or student-led projects related to public engagement, innovation, and social impact
- Available to all students in all majors at all UConn campuses, graduating no sooner than May 2019
- Summer project funding up to \$5,000
- Applications due **November 6, 2017**

### Health Research Program

- Connects students to UConn Health researchers for sustained research experiences
- Full-time summer research (\$4,000 stipend); research for credit during academic year
- Positions posted in January 2018
- Applications due **January 26, 2018**

### ISA Honors Awards for International Studies Research

- Support social science projects that span countries, regions, or the globe
- Eligibility
  - Honors student in good standing in Honors
  - Can have any major – the *project* is what must focus on international studies
  - Apply 4 weeks before travel
- Maximum award amount of \$1,000 to cover travel and/or other expenses
- Rolling review of applications



### OUR Supply & Travel Awards


- Provide funding during the academic year
- Three types:
  - Supply Award
  - Travel to Conduct Research Award
  - Travel to Present Research Award
- Eligibility
  - Undergraduate enrolled at any UConn campus
  - Minimum cumulative 2.8 GPA
  - Apply 4 weeks before travel
- Maximum award is \$500 (per academic year)
- Rolling review of applications

### Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF)

- Supports full-time undergraduates engaged in summer research or creative projects under the supervision of a faculty member (9-10 weeks of research)
- Available to all students in all majors at all UConn campuses, graduating no sooner than Dec 2018
- Proposal components: project description, budget, timeline + 2 letters of recommendation
- Applications due **January 29, 2018**
- **Maximum award amount is \$4,000**

### UConn IDEA Grants

- Funding of up to \$4,000 to support a self-designed project, invention, entrepreneurial venture, creative endeavor or community service initiative
- Open to undergraduates from all majors, all campuses, graduating no earlier than Dec 2018 (Fall applicants) or May 2019 (Spring applicants)
- Application components: project proposal, reading & background research, qualifications, personal statement, timeline, budget + 2 rec letters
- Individual and group applications



### UConn IDEA Grants

- Four stages of creative thinking, planning, project work, and communication
- Two award cycles per year

UConn IDEA Grant 2017-2018	Stage 1 IMAGINE	Stage 2 DEVELOP	Stage 3 ENGAGE	Stage 4 APPLY
Application and Program Timeline	Propose your project	Complete the project planning course	Engage in project work	Present what you've learned and produced
Summer Funding	Application Deadline: December 18, 2017			
		Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018
Academic Year Funding	Application Deadline: March 12, 2018			
		Summer 2018	Fall 2018 and/or Spring 2019	Spring 2019

## University Scholar Program

- Allows students to design and pursue an in-depth research project and an individualized plan of study for their final three semesters
- Students apply in the first semester of their junior year
- Students are strongly encouraged to begin planning their proposal earlier-- sophomore year and/or summer before junior year
- Does not provide research funding; does provide a waiver of the General University Fee for three semesters and access to funds for fee waivers for summer and intersession courses
- Recognizes a student's exceptional engagement in research or creative endeavors

## Contact Us

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