



Summer 2025
UA Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scholar Award
Announcement
Alaska IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence
(Alaska INBRE)

Announcement Date: Dec. 6, 2024
Submission Date: March 3, 2025 at 5 pm
Awards Announced: March 21, 2025
***Funding Period: May 4 - Aug. 23, 2025**

I. BACKGROUND

The Alaska IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The primary objective of the Alaska INBRE Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Scholar initiative is to support undergraduate students engaged in biomedical and health science research with mentorship from researchers across the AK INBRE network. The application for URA Summer Scholar support includes a brief description of the proposed research that has been developed with the support of a mentor. Students funded through this program will gain valuable experience in designing, conducting, and presenting research. This URA opportunity is for students enrolled at UAS, UAA, or UAF.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be undergraduate or dual-enrolled high school students in programs at a UA campus during the award period. Students must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5. Applicants are expected to have identified a supporting preceptor (mentor) and worked with their preceptor to prepare their application. For assistance with finding an appropriate research mentor in your area of interest, contact Dr. Kristin O'Brien at UAF (kmobrien@alaska.edu), Dr. Jonathan Stecyk at UAA (jstecyk@alaska.edu), Dr. Holly Martinson at UAA (hamartinson@alaska.edu), Dr. Brian Barth (bbarth@alaska.edu) at UAS or any of the INBRE Partner Institution Representatives listed below.

INBRE Partner Institution Representatives

Who	Email	Partner Institution
Max Kullburg	mpkullberg@alaska.edu	UAA
Maegan Weltzin	mmweltzin@alaska.edu	UAF
Brian Barth	bbarth@alaska.edu	UAS

III. AWARD AMOUNT

A URA Scholar may work up to 40 hours per week. Hourly compensation will start at \$17.50/hr. If students have previous lab experience, they will be compensated at \$18.00/hr.

INBRE will also provide up to \$2,000 for supplies and services in support of research to the preceptor. The expenditure of these funds will be administered by the departmental fiscal coordinator associated with the faculty preceptor and must be spent by June 30th.

Alaska INBRE Program
University of Alaska • P.O. Box 757040 • Fairbanks, AK 99775-7040
907.474.1104

• www.alaskainbre.org/ • ua-akinbre@alaska.edu

An Institutional Development Award funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Students from rural Alaska may apply for up to \$3,000 for a housing and/or food subsidy. Applicants should include an estimate of living expenses in their application.

IV. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

A complete application will consist of all of the following:

Student-submitted document (sections 1 & 2)

Section 1: Statement of Interest. 500 word minimum. Describe your research interests and what you hope to gain from a research experience.

Please name the Word file as follows: applicant's last name_first initial_institution_Summer2025_scholar." Example: Smith_J_UAA_Summer 2025_scholar

Section 2: Unofficial Transcripts

Please name your transcript files with your last name and first initial.

How to submit student documents:

Please Upload your unofficial transcripts and Proposal to this [Google form](#).

Faculty preceptor-submitted documents

Section 3: [Preceptor Checklist](#)

Section 4: Letter of support from the preceptor that includes a mentoring plan. The faculty preceptor letter of support should be emailed by the preceptor to ua-akinbre@alaska.edu. Please name each file as follows: "applicant's last name URA supporting documents." Example: Smith_URA supporting documents.

If you have any questions regarding the file name, format, or file sizing please contact Internal Evaluator [Jynene Black](#). If you have other questions about the preparation of your application or URA guidelines and requirements please contact [Dr. Kristin O'Brien](#) at UAF (kmobrien@alaska.edu) or Drs. [Jonathan Stecyk](#) (jstecyk@alaska.edu) or [Holly Martinson](#) at UAA (hamartinson@alaska.edu). All submissions will receive an email notification of receipt by the end of the next business day.

V. REVIEW PROCEDURES

An *ad hoc* INBRE Committee will review the applications. Applications will be evaluated based on the overall relevance of the research to the overall objectives of AK INBRE, the written quality of the application, the applicant's academic standing based on their transcripts, and the faculty preceptor's letter of support and mentoring plan. Ranking of candidates and recommendations will be submitted to the INBRE Administrative Core Leadership, who will make the final decisions.

VI. AWARD CONDITIONS

Recipients of a URA must:

- Attend a 1-hr virtual orientation meeting (date and time TBD)

- Complete a Mentor-Preceptor Agreement with their Preceptor and submit it to AK INBRE (ua-akinbre@alaska.edu) by May 1, 2025. Additional information about this agreement will be provided in the award letter.
- Participate in a weekly INBRE summer professional development workshop.
- Complete all safety training and any compliance committee approvals required, such as Institutional Review Board or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee before beginning and work. Please check with your faculty preceptor and their departmental safety officer for a list of required training.
- Provide a report of research progress, which will be rigorously reviewed by INBRE Student Research Program Co-Leaders for scientific progress. Reports on summer URA scholar projects are due in September 2025 and will include: A) a description of research progress and findings; B) a complete list of publications* and presentations*; C) any outreach presented to the public, schools, or organizations; and D) an assessment of the preceptor-mentee experience and relationship. Namely, i) if the preceptor met the needs of the student identified in the preceptor-mentee agreement and ii) how the preceptor-mentee agreement was used to discuss and reflect on the student's progress throughout the award period. All reporting will be submitted via the INBRE Piestar reporting database. All URAs will be required to comply with NIH guidelines by obtaining an eRA Commons account (if you do not currently have one) and updating their personal profile. [Jynene Black](#) will assist you in obtaining one prior to your report. You will be asked to provide your eRA Commons Username/ID when reporting to INBRE.
- If still a student and in Alaska at a partner institution, attend the INBRE Network-wide Annual Research Conference (NARC) in September 2025 and present a poster describing your research project. Travel, room, and board for the retreat and professional development workshop will be paid by AK INBRE.
- Participate in a one-day professional development workshop held in conjunction with the annual INBRE Network-wide Annual Research Conference (NARC) in September 2025 or in conjunction with Alaska EPSCoR

*Presentations (oral or poster) and publications must include the following acknowledgment and disclaimer:

“Research reported (on this poster/in this publication) was supported by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number P20GM103395. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.”

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AWARD CONDITIONS WILL RENDER STUDENTS INELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER PAYMENTS OR TO APPLY FOR ANY FUTURE INBRE FUNDING.

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