

REU Supplement: Language and Budget for Proposals

WVU Researchers: If you are writing a proposal and would like to include in some funding to support summer undergraduate researchers (1-2) as REU participants (typically these are non-WVU students), with those participants being included in much of the REU programming, language for your proposal is given below. Modify this language as you see fit to include within the constraints of your proposal. If you have any questions, please contact The Office of Undergraduate Research (undergradresearch@mail.wvu.edu).

REU Supplement

To aid us in our research endeavors and to contribute to the development of a scientifically literate U.S. workforce, we request REU Supplement funding for two undergraduate researchers per summer for two years. By providing students with the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge research full-time during the summer months, students' undergraduate experiences are enriched beyond the classroom. This will aid in retention of these students within their majors and will motivate them to attend graduate school in a STEM discipline. Each summer for two years, we expect to support two students in a 10-week summer undergraduate research experience. In addition to carrying out research of relevance to this grant application, the students will experience a comprehensive training program that will move them toward intellectual and research independence. The WVU Office of Undergraduate Research (UgR) has developed and offers this training program to all undergraduates involved in research at WVU during the summer months. UgR offers a series of activities (e.g., trainings in responsible conduct of research, safe handling of chemicals, laboratory safety, and use of scientific search engines), workshops (e.g., grant writing, oral/poster presentation of research, STEM outreach, prestigious scholarships, graduate school roundtable), and visiting speakers (e.g., from governmental, industrial, and academic laboratories) to improve undergraduate researchers' competencies in communication, collaboration, and technical presentation skills. In addition, the students will participate and deliver poster presentations during the culminating, university-wide "Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium" organized by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Optional text on mentor training: To further support undergraduates engaged in research with a faculty or graduate student mentor, UgR offers trainings and workshops each semester that provide mentors with the skills they need to support students from diverse backgrounds, abilities, and experiences. These workshops engage faculty and graduate student mentors in various scenarios and panel discussions related to supporting students from different cultural backgrounds, students experiencing mental health challenges, and in creating safe and equitable research environments. All faculty and graduate student mentors will be encouraged/required to attend.

Optional text (if funding for team building activities is included): Recreational team building activities, coordinated with participants of REU Sites based at WVU, will aid participants in making connections to undergraduates with related scientific interests and research ambitions. An abundance of outdoor recreational activities (e.g., biking, hiking, rafting, caving) within close proximity to WVU will be used for team-building events to facilitate formation of a tight knit community of undergraduate researchers.