Harrison Mackler '07 and Friends Summer Research Award in Biology

Thanks to a generous donation from Harrison Mackler '07 and Friends, Clark University is able to offer ***one or more*** *Clark rising juniors or rising seniors up to $2,500 to support a summer research project in biology or biochemistry.*

About the Award

This funded opportunity is open to rising juniors or seniors with a biology or biochemistry major completing summer research working with a Clark faculty member in the field or in their laboratory. Alternatively, they may pursue an independent research project in biology or biochemistry under the supervision of a Clark faculty member. Students are not eligible to receive more than one Harrison Mackler '07 and Friends Research award during their time at Clark.

Application Deadline

Midnight on April 15, 2024. Apply through the application portal on the Opportunity Funding Office web page. The research/Project must be secured before the deadline.

Who is Eligible?

- Clark rising juniors and rising seniors.
- Must have a declared major in Biology, or Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Students in good academic and social standing with the University.
- Students not currently on leave from Clark, and have an active, registered status.
- Students who have not already received the award.
- All students applying must have a designated faculty mentor or supervisor.

Criteria for Selection

The selection criteria include, but is not limited to:

- The quality and length of the research fellowship commitment (must meet the minimum guidelines set by Clark University).
- The quality of the written proposal: Is it well written? Does it include all required pieces?
- The value and clear connection to how the experience supports the advancement of research in neuroscience.

If You Are Awarded: Award Requirements

Students awarded funding will be required to:

- Write a note of appreciation to the donor
- Participate in at least one student panel the following academic year to talk about your experience
- Present the results of research completed at a professional conference such as Clark's Fall Fest or Academic Spree Day the academic year following

Contact Information

Students interested in applying should feel free to contact Opportunity Funding, via email at Opportunityfunding@clarku.edu.

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Application Guidelines

Where to Apply

Applications will only be collected through the application portal on the Clark University website: https://www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding. Additional directions for this application, and other funding possibilities, are listed on the funding website.

Required Documents

- Application narrative (see below for details)
- Name and contact info of Clark research mentor.

About IRB Approval

Your project may require IRB approval. All human subjects' research at Clark must be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board to ensure the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects. ***Funding applications with human research subjects must show proof of preliminary IRB approval in their applications.*** If you are unsure if you need IRB approval, please consult your faculty sponsor for this project. Instructions from Clark's IRB home page:

Application forms and instructions may be found on the Mentor IRB Website. Exempt and expedited reviews are generally considered on a rolling basis. For other types of research, submission deadlines for monthly IRB meetings are listed [on the sidebar of the above page].
Turnaround time for proposal review is normally 1-3 weeks after submission (for exempt or expedited reviews) or 1-2 weeks after the meeting date (for full board reviews. The point of contact for IRB matters is Linda Cote, Grant and IRB Coordinator, at licote@clarku.edu.

Application Narrative

There is a location to upload this document in the application portal, combined with your resume. If necessary, the application includes instructions on merging documents into 1 PDF.

1. **Project Narrative (500 words),** should include:
    a. **Introduction -** Open with a description of what you'll be doing for your research project. State the problem, puzzle, or project goal.
    b. **Approach to your project -** Provide a description of how you'll complete your project.
        - Discuss your benchmarks and processes in detail as best you can.
        - Describe your deliverable, or final product(s) for the project.
    c. **Timeline and benchmarks** – This section should be approximately one half-page, presented in table format.
        - What are the benchmarks for the project?
        - What is your timeline for meeting these benchmarks?

2. **Personal Narrative (500 words), should include**
    a. **Statement of interest – Why this field, this lab, this research?**
    b. **Background summary – How did you get here? How have you prepared?**

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c. **Relevance to career goals – discuss how this research will impact your future career goals.**
   - *Describe your career goals in the sciences.*
   - *Describe how this project will support or propel you toward those goals*

After You Apply

Selection Process & Timeline

The CCC will share the applications with the chair of the Biology Department. A faculty committee will be appointed by the chair to review the applications and provide the CCC with their recommended recipient(s) and approved award amount(s) based on budget. Additional departments may be consulted if research focus deems necessary. **Please consult the Biology Department regarding decision timelines.**

Award Disbursement

Funds are typically disbursed in late May. It is possible, however, that you may not receive the award until early June, in which case you should plan accordingly to cover your expenses until then. **You will need to set up direct deposit with Student Accounts in order to receive your award.** Note that this authorization is separate from Payroll Direct Deposit. If you receive funding we will send you detailed instructions in your award letter to set up your direct deposit. If you have accepted another source of funding, you must notify opportunityfunding@clarku.edu immediately since this will affect the amount of funding you are eligible to receive.

Tax Information

Domestic students: No taxes are withdrawn pre-disbursement; however, you will be expected to claim this award on your annual taxes and this may impact your taxes due at that time. Please consult an accountant for more detail.

International students: International students, defined as students studying at Clark on a visa, will have some taxes deducted from their funding amount prior to receiving the funding; this means that the amount you receive will be less that the total award. The amount deducted depends on which country you are from, and the tax treaty that the US has with that country. Generally, expect about 12-15% of your total award withdrawn. Please see the Clark payroll office with specific questions about your tax amount.