

About the George H. Davis Undergraduate Research Fund

The George H. Davis Undergraduate Research Fund (GHD URF) is the first fund in UA Geosciences to specifically and directly support and promote undergraduate research. The fund also honors the legacy of Regents Professor Emeritus, Provost Emeritus, and Honors College Professor George Davis, who has dedicated much of his career to personal mentoring and enriching student experience in and out of the classroom. The GHD URF was established by generous donations from alumni and friends of UA Geosciences to recognize Professor Davis's many legendary achievements and impacts on Geoscience, including his commitment to the student experience and tireless efforts to challenge and engage all students with real mentoring and research.

What does the George H. Davis Undergraduate Research Fund support?

Examples of activities or expenditures that may be supported by the GHD URF include field support, sample preparation costs, analyses, or computational research expenses. Items generally not supported include expensive equipment expected to be supplied by faculty advisors.

Applying for support from the George H. Davis Undergraduate Research Fund

To apply for funding to the GHD URF, students should submit a proposal. Proposal components are outlined in the last section of this document.

Proposals may request support for most or all of an entire research project of modest scope, or a minor component of a larger project.

A variety of factors are considered in determining the final award amounts. Past award recipients have received between \$300-\$800 in support.

Students awarded support from the GHD URF will be expected to write and submit a 1-2-page report on the use of the funds and outcomes of the project. This can be accompanied by a thesis or scientific report associated with the work. They will also be expected to write a short thank-you letter that the Department will mail to fund donors.

Deadline and submission instructions

Proposals must be received by Shawna Matteson, Geosciences undergraduate advisor, *no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, September 15 for the fall semester or February 15 for the spring semester*. Please submit PDF files to smatteson@email.arizona.edu.

Proposal components

Proposals should be no longer than two pages (single-spaced, 2.5-cm margins, minimum 11-point font, Times New Roman), not including references. Figures count towards the two-page maximum.

Proposals have five sections:

1. Scientific Justification

- Background and context for the scientific problem to be addressed
- Statement of the problem and how it fills a gap in current knowledge or thinking
- Expected outcomes

- What will success look like
- Broader impacts beyond the immediate scientific problem

2. Advice and Mentoring

- Description of how the student will be advised and mentored by a UA Geosciences faculty or researcher (direct advising by a graduate student is ok provided it is in the context of and involves regular contact with a faculty member)

3. Relationship to educational goals and experience

- How this research will contribute to the student's education, skills, and experience
- How this research is supported by the student's previous training and skills

4. Budget outline

- Costs associated with each component of the project, with justification
- Other sources of support

5. Advisor statement

- A short (50-200 words) statement of support from the faculty advisor