

George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology

Summer 2006

Information and Application Form

I. General Information

The George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology provides support for original, independent research by Lawrence-campus undergraduates interested in pursuing research with an entomological focus, under the general guidance of a member of the graduate faculty. The Gould Award is not intended to provide faculty members with assistants, but students may well be associated with faculty research projects as independent investigators. The George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology is awarded on the merit of the applicant's proposal, the applicant's academic record, and recommendations from faculty members who are familiar with the applicant and the proposed project.

Up to four Gould Awards will be given to support the costs of research by KU undergraduates during the summer of 2006. Each Award will provide \$2,000. Students may use these funds in any way they wish to support their research, e.g. supplies, photocopying costs, travel, living expenses.

To be eligible you must be an undergraduate studying on the Lawrence campus. You must be enrolled full-time this spring and must intend to be enrolled full-time during the fall semester. (Exceptions to this rule can be made, e.g., when the applicant is studying abroad during the spring or fall semester.)

Each proposal must be sponsored by a member of the faculty who agrees to oversee the conduct and completion of the project. Recipients will be selected by a committee composed of faculty from the KU Entomology Program, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Decisions of the committee are final. Applicants will be informed of the committee's decision by no later than May 2, 2006.

II. The Application

An application consists of:

1. A completed application form (attached).
2. A typewritten proposal not to exceed five pages (following the guidelines in section IV, below)
3. An ARTS form

You should deliver four copies of the above items to David Alexander, 5018 Haworth Hall, by 5:00 P.M. on April 7, 2006.

4. In addition, you should arrange for two supporting letters from members of the faculty (not graduate student instructors), one of whom is the project sponsor.

Both letters must be accompanied by a signed letter of reference form (attached). Letters of reference should be sent directly to Dr. David Alexander, Division of Biological Sciences, Haworth Hall. They must be received by April 7, 2006. Please make a timely check with David Alexander to be sure that your letters of reference have arrived.

III. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the following criteria, all of which would ideally be addressed in the proposal:

1. the project's potential contribution to scientific knowledge;
2. the likelihood of completion within the available time;
3. the student's qualifications, based on ability and experience, to complete the proposed research project successfully;
4. the project's educational value for the student;
5. the sponsor's willingness and availability to oversee the research and its completion.

IV. The Proposal

Your proposal is the basis for evaluation of your project. An outstanding academic record and glowing recommendations cannot overcome the deficiencies of a poor proposal. Your proposal should be clearly written, therefore, it should be substantive and detailed but it should also be understandable by an intelligent, literate non-specialist. In preparing your proposal, seek the advice of your faculty sponsor. Organize your proposal so as to include the following headings:

- A. Description: Describe the project, giving special attention to what you will actually do during the award period. If the project is part of a larger research program or a long-term interest, make clear what part of the larger whole is to be supported by the Gould Award and completed during the term of the award. Above all, be sure to identify the aim of your project and to explain how you intend to accomplish that aim.
- B. Significance: Make clear what will be discovered or created and why this is important, both to those who are in your field and to those outside it. Also explain how the project will contribute to your education.
- C. Applicant's qualifications: Describe the background and preparation that qualify you for this project. You may wish to mention past research, independent study, courses taken in the area of the proposed research, bibliographic research already done, related projects already completed, etc. In short, show the Selection Committee how prepared you are to undertake the project.

These guidelines are intended to help you prepare a good proposal. They are not meant to confuse or constrain. Where they are not applicable to your project, consult with your faculty sponsor and use your best judgment. Feel free to consult with Dr. David Alexander.

V. Research Reports

Students who receive a George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology are required to file an interim report with David Alexander on the progress of their research by Sept. 15, 2006. They are also required to file a final report on their completed research by Dec. 1, 2006. They are encouraged to consider presenting their results at an Entomology Program informal seminar.

George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology

Summer 2006

Application Form

(Due by 5:00 P.M., Friday, April 7, 2006)

Name: _____ Social Security # _____

Title of Proposed Project: _____

Student Number: _____ Local Telephone Number: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Local Address (be complete): _____

Permanent Address: _____

Major(s): _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Faculty Sponsor's Name and Department: _____

Second Referee's Name and Department: _____

On succeeding pages provide the following information:

1. Research Proposal.
2. Current ARTS form.
3. Anticipated fall 2006 classes (could be contained on current ARTS form).
4. Summary of plans for additional support (if any).

Note: Use this as the cover page for your proposal. Please do not put proposal in binders or folders. PLEASE TYPE.

George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology

Summer 2006

Letter of Reference Form

(Due by 5:00 P.M., Friday, April 7, 2006 to David Alexander, 5018 Haworth Hall)

Name of Applicant: _____

Name and Department of Sponsor or Referee: _____

TO THE APPLICANT: Provide a signed copy of this form to your faculty sponsor and your second referee, filling in the information above. Be sure to circle one of the options below and sign. Letters not accompanied by this form, duly signed, will be returned to the referee unread.

I hereby waive / do not waive [circle one] my right of access to letters written on my behalf in connection with my application for a George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

TO THE SPONSOR OR REFEREE: The student named above is applying for a George Gould Undergraduate Research Award in Entomology. These awards support independent research projects with an entomological focus conducted by Lawrence campus undergraduates. Applicants must be sponsored and recommended by a member of the graduate faculty on the Lawrence campus who agrees to oversee the progress and completion of the research project. A second reference is required from another faculty member who can speak to the merits of the proposed research, the qualifications of the student, or both. A copy of this form must accompany your letter. In your letter, please address the following points as far as possible:

1. The potential significance and the feasibility of the proposed research.
2. The student's preparation for the proposed research.
3. The educational value of the project for the student researcher.
4. The relationship of the project to the sponsor's research. (Spin-offs from faculty-directed research projects are appropriate; however, the George Gould Undergraduate Research Award is not intended to provide assistance for faculty research. The project should involve the student in independent research.)

A copy of this form, with one of the waiver options selected by the student, **must** accompany your letter.