

2027 Summer Research Fellows Application Guidelines

Revised October 9, 2026

Faculty Application Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2027

Student Application Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2027

THE 2027 APPLICATION

- The faculty application is available on the [Undergraduate Research website](#). Please read these guidelines in full before submitting.
- Faculty members apply first and identify their prospective Fellow(s). Each student then receives an email with a link to the student application. *Early submissions are appreciated.*

PROGRAM DEFINITION

The Summer Research Fellows program offers students the opportunity to work as collaborative partners with a faculty mentor on research projects or creative activities. The experience must have scholarly merit appropriate to the discipline, usefully engage the Fellow as an integral part of the project, and have the potential to result in presentations, publications, or other outcomes appropriate to the discipline. In the fine and performing arts, a performance, exhibition, or composition qualifies when it is the product of inquiry that generates new knowledge or insight; preparation of a performance or portfolio alone does not.

Projects should involve a minimum of 320 hours of work over the summer. The goal of the program is to provide students with a meaningful high-impact, engaged-learning experience. A faculty member who needs an assistant for simple tasks that do not involve the student as a collaborative partner should seek support elsewhere, such as RPG or other departmental or university sources.

The successful student applicant will receive a **\$3,500 fellowship payment**.

Housing

Summer Research Fellows may live in on-campus housing but are not required to. Fellows are eligible for a reduced Furman Summer Fellows housing rate, but they must submit an application to the Office of Housing and Residence Life by its deadline. The summer 2027 housing portal opens in January 2027 and closes on April 2, 2027. The application is available on the [Housing and Residence Life Summer Housing page](#).

The Summer Fellows housing rate does not apply during MayX if the student enrolls in a voluntary MayX course. The exception is a MayX course that the faculty mentor requires and that the Office of Undergraduate Research has approved in advance. If a Fellow takes any other MayX course, the research project should not begin until after MayX.

Conference Presentation Funding

The UR Office has funding available to support students presenting at professional meetings and conferences, virtually or in person, in the year following their fellowship. Information is available on the [Student Research Presentation Funding page](#).

Note to Faculty Mentors

When you propose student applicants to the UR Office, we assume that you want to work with them, and the UR Office will do everything it can to secure adequate funding for that request. Faculty members should therefore vet their applicants thoroughly before submitting them for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty and Lecturers at the 4/5 level or above in any academic department are eligible to apply. Lecturers below the 4/5 level will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Any returning student who will be enrolled full-time at Furman in Fall 2027 is eligible to apply, including students who may take a leave of absence in the fall. The program cannot support students who will graduate in May 2027.

Questions about the types of projects funded or the eligibility of a student should be directed to the Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Chris Alvin (chris.alvin@furman.edu; 294-2269). Faculty applying for a Summer Fellow for the first time are especially encouraged to contact Dr. Alvin to discuss the application process.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Office of Undergraduate Research seeks to support as many proposals that meet its minimum high standards as the budget allows. At present, we expect to have sufficient funding to support all applications that receive the committee's approval. The Center for Engaged Learning Faculty Review Committee, composed of faculty from disciplines across campus, will use the following criteria, not necessarily in this order, as the basis for awarding Fellowships:

1. The quality and clarity of the student's and mentor's applications
2. Evidence that the faculty mentor intends to integrate the mentee(s) collaboratively and to provide an experience that meets the standards of a high-impact practice
3. Lack of an alternative funding source
4. The quality of the proposed research or creative project. The committee supports original projects that have scholarly or creative merit and are likely to result in presentations, publications, or other research-based outcomes appropriate to the discipline.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

1. **Faculty commitment.** Faculty mentors must commit to working on the project during the fellowship period and to supervising the Fellow adequately. Faculty may teach summer school or engage in other professional activities during the fellowship period, provided these activities do not interfere with supervision of the Fellow or impede the progress of the project.
2. **Work schedule and other commitments.** The fellowship requires a minimum of eight weeks of full-time work, or the equivalent of 320 hours. The mentor and the Fellow(s) set the work schedule. A student enrolled in a MayX course must begin work after MayX; students not enrolled in MayX may begin in May. Students enrolled in a MayX course that has not been preapproved by the academic department and the Office of Undergraduate Research are not eligible for the Summer Fellows housing rate during May (see Housing above). Fellows should not hold other jobs totaling more than 10 hours per week. With the approval of the faculty mentor and the Director of Undergraduate Research, a Fellow may enroll in one summer course, but not more than one.
3. **Multiple and shared Fellows.** A faculty mentor may apply to work with one or more Fellows, and two faculty members may share a Fellow when their research project(s) warrant such an arrangement. Please bring any proposed shared arrangement to the attention of the Director of Undergraduate Research.
4. **Off-campus work and research internships.** Fellows may spend some or all of the research period at an off-campus location if off-campus work is necessary and the Furman mentor can provide adequate supervision virtually. Students who wish to pursue a summer research or creative project at another

institution under the direction of a non-Furman faculty member are considered Research Interns and may [apply for funding through the Internship Office](#).

5. **Human subjects and animal research.** All work involving human subjects or animals must be approved by the appropriate review board. Faculty often involve students in this review process. All Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposals (exempt, expedited, or full review) must be reviewed and approved before the research begins, including participant recruitment. Exempt and expedited proposals submitted after May 4, 2027, may take longer to approve. Full-review proposals will not be accepted after June 11, 2027. Submit the complete application, including your CITI certificate of completion, to the IRB administrator and chair, Brianne Pochard (brianne.pochard@furman.edu). Visit www.furman.edu/irb for the training required of all researchers (faculty and students) and for application forms.
6. **Fellow requirements.** Fellows are required to complete pre- and post-experience surveys, an enhancement session offered in the summer, and a self-reflection writing exercise at the end of the summer. Each recipient of a Summer Fellowship is expected to present on their experience at Furman Engaged on April 21, 2028. A student who cannot present at Furman Engaged because of a Furman-sponsored conflict (for example, participation in a study away program) should inform the Office of Undergraduate Research, which will arrange an alternative presentation, such as at Family Weekend in Fall 2027. Failure to meet these requirements will disqualify the student from future funding from the Center for Engaged Learning.
7. **Faculty stipends and project expenses.** Faculty members who mentor Summer Research Fellows through the UR Office receive a stipend of \$4,000 for the first Fellow and \$250 for each additional Fellow. This amount, an increase from the previous \$1,500, reflects an initiative from the Provost's Office announced to the faculty by email in mid-January 2026. Faculty mentors may also access up to \$250 per Fellow for materials and supplies directly related to the Fellow's project. Faculty travel expenses are not covered. Questions about acceptable expenses should be directed to the Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Chris Alvin.
8. **Unpaid or volunteer Fellows.** The Office of Undergraduate Research is open to recognizing unpaid or volunteer Research Fellows. They may qualify for the Summer Fellows housing rate if they work full-time for a minimum of 320 hours. Please contact the Director of Undergraduate Research to discuss.
9. **TFA-002.** Students holding a Summer Research Fellowship through the UR Office may be enrolled in the zero-credit course TFA-002, "Summer Undergraduate Research," which records their summer research experience on their transcript at no additional registration cost. A Fellow cannot enroll in TFA-002 while applying any other credit-bearing research course to the same summer project. Fellows funded by departments or offices other than the UR Office may elect to enroll in TFA-002; the UR Office completes their registration.
10. **One fellowship per summer.** A student may receive only one research fellowship per summer, regardless of its source, and may not receive both a research fellowship and an internship fellowship in the same summer.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCE: SCICU

Students are welcome to apply for a South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) collaborative student/faculty research grant. A SCICU grant can cover the student fellowship payment, with the UR Office making up any necessary difference, but not faculty stipends, which the UR Office pays. Most notably, a SCICU grant can cover costs that the Summer Fellows program cannot, including research-related travel and a larger materials and supplies budget. Applications are due in February 2027; the specific date is to be announced. Guidelines are available on the UR website. Students write SCICU applications, but faculty mentors should contact the Director of Undergraduate Research in advance about a prospective application.