Research Internship Grants 2015

Up to $3,000 awards (based on duration) offered to defray the expenses associated with Gatton Academy Class of 2016 summer 2015 research/internship experiences.

Instructions

Requirements and Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

• Be a student in the Class of 2016, eligible at the spring semester’s end to return to the Gatton Academy in fall 2015;
• Be proposing original, mentored research in a STEM discipline for summer 2015;
• Propose a specific research project (including location, date ranges, and description of research objectives) and complete all components of the application;
• Find a STEM professional—with content expertise—who agrees to mentor and supervise the summer research/internship at the hosting location;
• Apply by the **deadline of Wednesday, March 25, 2015**.

What Funded Students Should Expect

Recipients of awards will be:

• Enrolled in a one-hour internship course through WKU. Tuition for this course ($381) will come out of the grant;
• Expected to fulfill all terms of the research/internship experience as set forth in the proposal;
• Graded upon the completion of the experience based off of the evaluation found on The Gatton Academy webpage;
• Offered feedback and assistance on shaping the required Research Report to fit competition standards;
• Encouraged to use this experience and the subsequent research report to enter the Siemens Competition and the Intel Science Talent Search in the fall 2015 semester. Additional opportunities for presentations and scholarships are available.

How to Apply:

• **Part I- Student Cover Page**
• **Part II- Student Essay**
• **Part III- Signed Parental Consent Form**
• **Part IV- Statement from Supervising Sponsor form + letter of support**

How to Submit Applications/Deadline:

The applying student should submit all application components together as a hard copy to Derick Strode in Florence Schneider Hall 104 by Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Guidelines/Rules/Advice

• Awards are based on 1.) proposal quality (carefully considered objectives and logistical details that applicants include), and 2.) the number of hours one plans to dedicate to the internship. For example...

  For example...
  Min. 320 hrs. (8 weeks x 40 hrs) = up to $3,000
  Min. 240 hrs. (6 weeks x 40 hrs) = up to $2,000

• Research hours are limited to 40 hrs/week;
• Budget time in your proposal to work on writing your research report;
• Placements can be in any STEM discipline, anywhere in the world where an applicant finds a STEM professional who will oversee their research--universities, governmental laboratories, and STEM industries are all acceptable. Think big. The creativity of proposals is important;
• Applicants will need to detail where they will live, eat, and how they will get around. The application should prove even the smallest details of their proposed summer have been considered;
• If an applicant is accepted to an internship program that will pay for the experience in full (travel, housing, meals, etc.) OR to a program where the applicant would make money, the student is considered ineligible for the award.
Research Internship Grant

Application Part I—Student/Proposal Information

Student Name: ___________________________________________________________   WKU ID: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Cell Phone: __________________________  WKU E-mail: ______________________________________________

**Academic and Research History**

WKU GPA: _______________________

If currently involved in research at The Gatton Academy, please list the department and supervising professor. 
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Please describe your current research project (if applicable): ____________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

**Information on Proposed Summer Project**

Location and address of proposed summer research: _________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Name and title of Supervising Sponsor:_____________________________________________________________

Supervising Sponsor phone: ____________________ Supervising Sponsor e-mail: ___________________________

Dates of proposed research/internship:       start: ____  / ____  / ____  to end: ____  / ____  / ____

List any days within this period that you will not work: _________________________________________________

What will your daily working hours be? ___________________   How many hours total per week?____________

How many hours total this summer will you be researching/interning on this project? Tabulate this carefully,
leaving out any days you will be on vacation or not actively involved in your project. ________________________

Are you receiving any reimbursement or pay for the proposed project (i.e. stipend, salary, housing, meals,
transportation)?  If so, please specify what is provided: ________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

By signing below, I understand that if I am awarded a Research Internship Grant from The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and
Science, that I will be expected to carry out the research/internship that I am proposing, in full, to the best of my abilities. I understand
that I will be registered into a 1-hour internship course that will be paid for out of my grant and that the course is
graded by my on-site supervising scientist. I understand that throughout my research/internship experience, I will prepare a
thorough research report (maximum 18 pages) that I can enter in the Siemens Competition and Intel Science Talent Search in the
fall semester of my senior year.

____________________________________     ________________     _____________________________________
Student Signature    Date               Parent/Guardian Signature
Student Name: ______________________________________________

Instructions: Please attach a typed proposal. Please limit your response so that both parts one and two fit onto two, double-spaced pages.

Part One: Describe the research project you are proposing and your research objectives (think realistic for a summer and have these approved by the scientist who will oversee you). At the very least, you will want to address the following questions: What is the big-picture problem/question you will research? What contribution do you hope to make to the problem/question this summer? What research goals do you have? What will you do while “on-the-job” each day? What are your personal goals in wanting to complete this project?

Part Two: Describe the logistical details of how you’re going to survive a highly independent summer. Where will you live while you work on your research/internship and who will you live with? Where will you eat? How will you get to the location of your research/internship on a daily basis? Fill your essay with details of your proposed experience. A timeline table or chart is recommended (i.e. Week 1 I will ___ and Week 2 I will__).
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Application Part III—Signed Parental Consent Form

About the Gatton Research Internship Grant
Funded by a gift from Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton, the Gatton Academy’s Research Internship Grant was founded in 2010. The program gives selected students from the Gatton Academy’s current rising senior class the opportunity to receive summer research grants in amounts up to $3,000. Awards are meant to defray the housing, meal, and transportation expenses associated with summer STEM research experiments and investigations. Through the program, students are mentored in designing and carrying out their own original research project. Students create a Research Report that can be entered into some of the nation’s most prestigious high school-level STEM research competitions.

Because this is a highly independent summer, it is important that parents are fully aware precisely what their student is proposing funding for. If any questions at all arise through the application process or beyond, parents are asked to call Derick Strode, Gatton Academy Assistant Director of Academic Services, at 270-745-3167 or email derick.strode@wku.edu.

By signing this form, parents/guardians of applying students agree to the following:

Parent/Guardian Initials

__________ I have read about the Gatton Research Internship Grant at http://www.wku.edu/academy/academics/researchgrant/index.php

__________ I have read my student’s completed proposal and support their application.

__________ I have made arrangements with my student and we have a plan for where they will be housed this summer and what access they will have to meals and transportation.

__________ I understand that The Gatton Academy does not house or supervise students during summers or while they carry out Research Internship Grants.

__________ I am aware of who my student’s on-site supervising scientist is.

__________ I understand the level of independence my student will have if selected

__________ I understand that if selected, my student’s grant will be awarded as a scholarship, that $380 of their grant will be kept to pay tuition costs for a one-hour WKU research course, and that the remainder of the scholarship is meant to defray costs associated with housing, meals, and transportation to carry out the proposed internship.

__________ I understand that my student will be graded at the summer’s end by the supervising scientist using the rubric found at http://www.wku.edu/academy/academics/researchgrant/index.php.

____________________________ __________  __________ ______________________
Print Parent/Guardian Name  Date   Signature
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Application Part IV—Statement from a Supervising Sponsor

Instructions to Supervising Scientist:

• Complete the Application Part IV—Statement from a Supervising Sponsor Form (next page);
• Attach a letter explaining the project in which you are agreeing to host a Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Sciences in Kentucky student for a summer 2015 research project/internship;
• Return the form and attached letter by placing them together in a sealed envelope and giving the envelope to the student to turn in with their application, due by March 25, 2015.

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Credit/Grading
Gatton Academy Research Internship Grant recipients will earn one college credit hour through Western Kentucky University for Honors: Independent Research (Honors 303). Students who do research at Western Kentucky University will be graded on a traditional grading scale. Students whose research is away from WKU will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. At the end of the summer, you will send the grade for the student you worked with that will go on their official high school and university transcripts to The Gatton Academy. The grade is based off of the following: 1.) an evaluation of the student that you complete and return (50%), and 2.) the student’s completion of a research report, following guidelines from the Siemens Competition for high school STEM research, not to exceed 18 pages (50%). The complete grading criteria/rubric will be provided to all supervising scientists of Research Internship Grant recipients at the onset of the experience, but may also be viewed in advance at: http://www.wku.edu/academy/academics/researchgrant/index.php.

2015 Timeline
• Now – mid-March: Students discuss potential summer research internships with mentors.  
  NOTE: Students should be involved to the extent possible in the project’s origin and design.
• March 25, 2015: Deadline for complete student applications
• April 8, 2015: Last possible date for selection notifications
• May 18, 2015 or later: Research Start Dates: Varies by student’s arrangement with mentor
• June 19, 2015: Lit Review and Introduction Section of Research Report Due
• July 3, 2015: Materials and Methodology Section of Research Report Due
• August 10, 2015: Final Draft of Complete Research Report Due
• August 14, 2015: Research Supervisor Reports Student Grade to The Gatton Academy

Contact Derick Strode at The Gatton Academy with questions. 270-745-3167| derick.strode@wku.edu
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Application Part IV—Statement from a Supervising Sponsor

Student Name: ______________________________________________

Mentor Name: ________________________ Phone: _______________ E-mail: ____________________
Employer: _______________________________ Professional Title: ____________________________________________________________________
Work Address: ____________________________________________________________________

Please answer the following questions:

What are the dates that the student will work? Start ___ / ____ / 2015 to End ____ / ____ / 2015

How many hours per week will the student be expected to work (40 max)? ________________________

How many hours total this summer is the student expected to work? ____________________________

Is your company/agency/department paying or reimbursing the student in any way (i.e. providing
housing, meals, transportation, salary, or stipend)?    _____  Yes                 ______  No

If yes, please provide details: _____________________________________________________________

Have you talked with the student about the logistics of where they will live during the project, where
they will eat, and how they will get to and from their work place each day?       ____    Yes       ____  No

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Signature                Date

Please attach a signed letter of support that describes the project that you have agreed to supervise a
Gatton Academy student on for the summer 2015. Letters should be put with this form in a sealed
envelope and given to the student to turn in with their application, due Wednesday, March 25, 2015.