

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program Sites and Supplements

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07569/nsf07569.htm> (Solicitation)

The following information is in the solicitation:

REU Supplements for Evaluative Research Experiences

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) will consider supporting REU Supplements that provide *evaluative research* experiences for one or two undergraduates in any NSF research or education project that employs a professional evaluator. The purpose of this opportunity for supplemental funding is to offer undergraduate students exposure to the field of evaluation and to build their skills in evaluative research methods and study design. The student's research should focus on the broader impacts of the research or education project. The professional evaluator attached to the award should have primary responsibility for designing and coordinating the student's evaluative research experience. Investigators interested in this opportunity should contact the EHR REU program officer at (703) 292-5137 or reu.ehr@nsf.gov <<mailto:reu.ehr@nsf.gov>> before submitting a request for supplemental funding.

REU Supplements (See funding guidelines on next page)

An REU Supplement typically provides support for one or two undergraduate students to participate in research, as part of a new or ongoing NSF-funded research project. However, centers or large research efforts may request support for a number of students commensurate with the size and nature of the project. REU Supplements are supported by the various disciplinary and education research programs throughout the Foundation, including programs such as Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).

REU Supplements may be obtained in either of two ways: (1) Investigators holding an existing NSF research award may submit a request for supplemental funding. For guidance, contact the cognizant program officer for the NSF grant or cooperative agreement that would be supplemented. (2) Proposers may include an REU Supplement activity as a component of a new (or renewal) research proposal to NSF. For guidance, contact the program officer who manages the research program to which the proposal would be submitted.

CONTACT

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Evaluation Experience for Undergraduates

- The activity should generally follow REU guidelines for the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Program, except that the content and focus of the experience should be evaluative research. The REU solicitation is on the Web at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07569/nsf07569.htm>
- Student qualifications should be tailored to project evaluation activities. In general the student should probably have some knowledge of research methods (quantitative analysis techniques) in order to fully participate in the activity. Also, because of their limited representation in the fields of research and evaluation, we encourage selection of an underrepresented minority student.
- Description of activities: The student should work directly with the evaluator in activities that will (1) teach the student evaluation/research techniques and methods and (2) expose the student to an evaluative research activity, to evaluation as a potential career, and to the American Evaluation Association (AEA) as the national professional organization.
- Evaluator: This should be a professional evaluator with experience in providing formal program evaluation services. Please attach a vita/biosketch..
- Budget: In accordance with the REU guidelines, EHR is offering to fund up to \$8,000 per student(\$800/week for an 8-10 week experience during the summer, or a similar experience spread out over an academic year). This includes a stipend, travel, housing or meal allowance, and the usual REU administrative allowance of 25% of the participant stipend in lieu of indirect costs. In the Budget Justification, please specify the breakdown of the expenses.
- If feasible within the budget, it would be beneficial for the student to attend a regional or the annual national meeting of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) or the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for networking and further career exploration.
- Reporting Requirement: The evaluator, with input from the student, should include a report on the experience as part of the Annual Project Report.

Please submit your request via FastLane to your NSF Program Officer and email a copy to me. Please alert both of us when it is submitted. If you have questions, my contact information is below: Elmima Johnson, ejohnson@nsf.gov, (703) 292-5137.