The Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URS) is dedicated to helping first- and second-year undergraduates get hands-on experience in research or other creative endeavors by working with UW faculty and research staff. Discovery—whether in the sciences, engineering, the arts, or the social sciences—is the cornerstone of our greatness as a university. The experience of working with a faculty or staff member who is pushing back the frontiers of knowledge will transform what students learn in the classroom into reality and relevance. The URS Program is open to all first- and second-year undergraduates and is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive scholarly community that includes students from historically under-represented groups.

The Program also provides an opportunity for upper-class undergraduates to develop strong leadership skills by serving as Research Fellows. Currently, we are seeking students interested in being appointed as Undergraduate Research Fellows for the 2018/2019 academic year. This position provides a $1,000 honorarium per semester in recognition of sustained effort and commitment. The URS program will provide substantial training and support for the Research Fellows who will participate in a training module beginning 27 August 2018. Each Research Fellow will be assigned a Co-fellow and fourteen to twenty URS Scholars with whom they will meet regularly in small groups. In addition to small group sessions, Research Fellows attend a weekly seminar facilitated by the URS Director and Project Assistant during the fall semester on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30.

Please Note: We expect to appoint twelve-fifteen Research Fellows for the 2018/2019 academic year. These positions should be filled by early April 2018.

Research Fellow Responsibilities

1. Participate in URS class, Inter-LS 315: Paradigms and Process in Academic Inquiry, on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30 PM during Fall semester.

2. Participate in URS seminars on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

3. Partner with another Research Fellow to lead a small group of fourteen to twenty URS students who will gather from 5-6 p.m. to discuss the research experience and share strategies on successfully managing early college years. Partner Research Fellows will plan small group meeting objectives and develop a syllabus for these activities during the August 2018 training module.

4. Meet in regular Research Fellow seminars with the URS Director and Project Assistant. The seminars will be held from 4:00-4:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings before small group meetings. Research Fellows must be available Wednesdays from 4 to 6:00 p.m. in the Fall and Spring semesters.

5. Provide guidance to URS scholars.

6. Keep regular contact with URS scholars and monitor their research experience.

7. Assist the URS Director and Project Assistant in evaluating the students in the program.

8. Serve as the link between the URS staff, the URS students, and their URS Research Mentors.

9. Student must be willing to represent URS at various campus functions.

10. Participate as needed in the general operation of the URS Program.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Upper-class (four or more semesters of college) student in the 2018/2019 academic year.

2. Must be able to meet in URS seminars on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the 2018/2019 academic year.

3. Must participate in the Research Fellow Training Module on campus, beginning August 27, 2018 and ending on Thursday, August 30th.
Preferred Experience/Skills

1. Must be able to work in a flexible environment.
2. Should have experience in research or an independent creative endeavor and/or have experience in leadership roles.
3. Should be resourceful and able to take initiative.
4. Should have a good sense of the enrichment opportunities available on the UW campus or know how to find such information.
5. Should have strong skills in interpersonal communication, including effective use of email.
6. Some preference will be given to applicants with an interest in attending Graduate School (including Business, Law, and/or Medical School).
7. Must have personal and professional integrity.
8. Should be comfortable leading small groups of students.
9. Must be able to meet deadlines associated with URS administration and seminars.

Interview

Selected candidates for the Research Fellow positions will have an interview in late February.

Training Module

The Research Fellow training module is expected to run from Monday, August 27 through Thursday, August 30, 2018. We will assist students who are planning on living in the residence halls and who will need an early move in date. The training module will include sessions on leadership skills, diversity and inclusion, community building, how to organize small group discussions, research ethics and responsibilities, professional conduct, and program administration. There will also be considerable time set aside for getting to know one another as friends and colleagues.

How to Apply

1. Complete the application form. Applications are available on our website: http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/urs/. Please submit a completed application by e-mail to urs@saa.ls.wisc.edu.

2. Attach a copy of your résumé and a cover letter expressing your interest in the position. The application deadline is February 19th at 4:00 pm.

If you have specific questions or concerns pertaining to the URS-Fellowing process and/or fellows program, you may contact the program office at urs@saa.ls.wisc.edu, or M. Carina Carreno at mcarreno@wisc.edu, and or stop by the office on the third floor of the Red Gym at 716 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53706.