Purpose:
This program is designed to encourage the participation of undergraduate students in research. Funding is intended to support the pursuit of students’ own research project, and/or the students’ involvement in the original research work of their faculty mentor’s original research work. CURCA funding may support, but is not limited to, travel, supplies, and human subject costs.

Application Deadlines and Notification Schedule:
Funding is available for work that is done during fall, winter, spring, and summer terms. Applications will be reviewed approximately two weeks after the submission dates. Submission at the start of each semester is encouraged to allow adequate time for review and dispersal of the funds. Applications received after a submission date will be reviewed during the next review cycle.

The faculty and staff of CURCA and our review committee will review completed applications and provide written notice regarding funding decisions typically within one week of the review date. The payment process can take between 6-8 weeks to complete after you receive confirmation of an award.

CURCA Award Review Calendar:
Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on the dates listed below. The application review will be held within two weeks of these submission deadlines:

Fall 2018: Wednesday, September 26, 2018
This funding is for fall semester and early applicants for winter session projects ONLY.

Winter 2018: Wednesday, October 31, 2018
This funding is for winter session and early applicants for spring semester projects ONLY. Seniors graduating in Spring 2019 may NOT apply for project funding beyond this date.

Spring 2019: Wednesday, February 20, 2019
This funding is for spring semester projects or early summer session applicants ONLY. Seniors graduating in Spring 2019 may NOT apply for this funding.

Summer 2019: Wednesday, April 3, 2019
This funding is for summer session ONLY. Seniors graduating in Spring 2019 may NOT apply for this funding.
**Eligibility:**
Matriculated UB undergraduate students from any department or discipline are eligible to apply. Students must be pursuing an *original* research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor who has listed his/her research opportunity on the CURCA website. **Graduating seniors are not eligible for funding for projects beyond the Winter 2018 deadline.**

**Amount:**

The maximum amount that can be awarded at any single semester is $500 per individual applicant. Prior recipients may apply for additional awards in subsequent semesters, but must supply adequate justification of why additional funding is necessary. If funding is not available for all applicants in a given review cycle, preference will be given to first-time applicants.

**Helpful Hints:**

Funding is limited. To ensure that you present a competitive application, you should:

- Carefully follow all instructions and ensure that your application is complete prior to submission.
- Describe your research project so that it can be understood by *any* person not familiar with your discipline or your specific research. If technical terminology is essential to the application, a glossary should be included in the appendix. Please note that the review board consists of faculty from a wide range of departments including English, Engineering, Geology, and Medicine, and it is essential that your application be easily understood by all of the reviewers.
- Ensure that your stated goals are supported by a clear, concise, well-organized budget and a justification explaining why each item is needed and where the price estimate was obtained.
- There is a separate document entitled Application Do’s & Don’ts on the CURCA website that includes more specific suggestions and sample budgets. We strongly suggest reviewing this document before writing your proposal.
- Schedule an appointment with CURCA staff to review your application prior to the submission deadline. Please email us at ubcurca@buffalo.edu and we will work together to arrange a convenient time to discuss your application.

**Additional Considerations for Award Recipients:**

- **Books/Supplies/Materials:** Any books, equipment, and/or supplies purchased with CURCA funds must be returned to the faculty mentor upon completion of project.
- **By receiving these funds, you are obligated to present a poster at the annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence** either during the current or the following academic school year. **It is your responsibility to submit an application to present at the Celebration of Student Academic Excellence prior to the Celebration application deadline.** See page 10 for more details.

Students often have questions about their application. While it is not required, we are happy to meet with you to discuss your application and answer any questions you may have prior to your selected submission deadline. Please email us at ubcurca@buffalo.edu and we will work together to arrange a convenient time to discuss your application.
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete applications must include the following documents:

I: **2018-2019 Application Cover Sheet** (pages 5-7):

***Ensure that your faculty mentor has listed the project on the CURCA website, and that you include the project title on this cover sheet in the provided space. Faculty mentors can use [this link to post projects](#).***

*Please Note* - As of Nov. 29, 2018, all application cover sheets now require a department chair signature. See page 7 for more details.

II: **Award Certificate of Understanding** (page 8)

III: **Project Description** (no more than 3 pages):

Consider these questions: *What is the larger problem/issue you are looking at in your project? What are you working on specifically that will help with the larger issue?*

Describe in terms that are *comprehensible to a non-specialist*:

- The purpose and anticipated result of the project.
- The potential impact of your project in the context of your discipline. It is *highly recommended* that you incorporate a brief literature review, citing relevant sources in your field and how they relate to and inform your present project.
- The importance of your project to your educational and professional development.
- **Broader Impacts**: Describe in laymen's terms the broader impacts of your project. How you will disseminate the results of your project with a wider audience (e.g. additional research, paper, presentation, production, blog, etc.)? Tell us the logical next steps resulting from this project.

IV: **Student Duties** (no more than 1 page):

Describe specifically what you will be doing on the project. This is particularly important if your project is part of a larger group project or taking place within a larger lab group. The committee will want to know for which tasks you are personally responsible.

**Example**: “While the research team will be examining the health of the whales, I will be responsible for taking the pulse and temperature of each animal.” *Note the use of first person for tasks for which you are personally responsible.*

V: **Cited References** (no more than 1 page)

Give citations (in the format your field uses) that speak to the background of the project. If applicable, cite any previous work done on the project.

VI: **Student Background** (no more than 1 page):

Describe your previous training and experience (course work, creative activities, laboratory experience, work and/or life experience, etc.) that have prepared you to successfully complete this project.
VII: **Methods and Timeline** (no more than 1 page):

Briefly outline the methods or processes that will be employed in achieving the goals of the project, as well as a tentative schedule for its completion. Discuss how and when the results of the project will be shared or disseminated.

VIII: **Budget** (no more than 1 page):

*Specifically itemize* the various expenses for which funds are requested, including materials, equipment, travel, etc. You must provide a link to the vendor and describe why you are requesting each item at the specified quantity. If travel for your project is involved, please see this page for information regarding reimbursement for mileage, lodging, and meals.

**Note that awards may not exceed $500. If your project budget exceeds $500, specify where the additional funding will come from or how the project could be accomplished without full funding.**

IX: **Budget Justification** (no more than 1 page):

Justify why each item in your budget is needed (i.e. how will these items help you complete your student duties) and cite where the price estimate was obtained. Please note that your budget and budget justification should link to the work that you will complete as described in your individual student duties.

X: **Progress Report** (if needed; no more than 1 page):

If you have already received CURCA funding for this project or you are continuing the research from another student, please provide a few paragraphs that explain how the previous funding was used and the progress on the project to date.

*Consider these questions:* What new twists, if any, will you add to the project? If you are repeating the same processes as a past student, what are you hoping to discover from these processes? Please be sure to properly cite past projects in section V, as well.

XI: **Appendix/Glossary** (if needed)

**Formatting:**

Please pay careful attention to formatting guidelines and page limit recommendations. We reserve the right to reject any application that does not follow these guidelines:

- Each section must be complete and separate from the other sections, and must be presented in the order indicated above.
- All typed work should be in **12 pt font** and be double-spaced.
- The applications must be printed **single-sided**.

**Submit one original application to:**

CURCA – Undergraduate Research Awards
17 Norton Hall
University at Buffalo North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.

*Only complete application packets will be accepted. Applications received after 3:00pm on a due date will be reviewed during the next cycle.*
Undergraduate Research Awards
Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities
University at Buffalo
2018 - 2019 Individual Application Cover Sheet

Applicant(s) Information

**Applicant’s Full Name:** __________________________________________________________

UB Person Number: __________________________

Local Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________________

UB Email Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: __________________ Alt Phone: ______________________________

Student Class Level (freshman, etc.): __________________

Expected Graduation Date (Fall/Spring and Year): __________________________

Major(s): _____________________________ Minor(s): ________________________

Project Information

*Important note to supervisors and mentors: In order for a student to receive funding, the project MUST be listed by you on the CURCA website.*

Your Proposed Title of Project: __________________________________________

Faculty Title of Project (as posted on the CURCA site): __________________________

Faculty/Staff Supervisor: ______________________________________

Faculty/Staff Title: ______________________________________

Faculty/Staff Department: ______________________________________

Faculty/Staff Telephone: __________________ Faculty/Staff UB Email: __________________

Department Chair: __________________

Department Chair Telephone: ___________ Department Chair Email: __________________

**Have any applicants previously been funded for this project by CURCA?:** Yes____ No______

IRB/ Animal Subjects Protocol # (if applicable): ________________________________

***All those involved in human research at UB must complete initial training in human research subject protection. No research involving human beings can commence until it has been approved by one of UB’s Institutional Review Boards (IRB’s). For more information on IRB please visit this link.*
Funding Information

Total funding sought (from budget worksheet): ______________________________
(not to exceed $500)

Other Funding Pending or Received (description, amounts):
Source: _________ Amount: __________ Date of Decision: __________
Source: _________ Amount: __________ Date of Decision: __________

Is the project dependent upon receipt of these other funding sources: Yes_____ No_____
If yes, please explain:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

If awarded funding, the funds will be transferred to your faculty mentor’s departmental account. Please provide the account information below:

1. Fund Transfer

☐ Transfer the funds to my faculty mentor’s Non-Sponsored RF, IFR or UBF departmental account, which would then be available for faculty mentor’s use. Funds cannot be transferred to state accounts. This information must be filled out by the department financial administrator to ensure accuracy. Failure to obtain correct information may result in a delay in your award dispersal.

☐ Non – Sponsored RF    ☐ IFR Account      ☐ UBF Account

*Note: the department chair holds final approval of directing all fund transfers. The department chair may either approve or deny of funds being sent to a faculty account, or can supply auxiliary account information for funds to be deposited into.

Name of Department Financial Contact (who has signature authority on the account):
____________________________________________________________________________

Department: ________________________________________________________________

Campus Address: ____________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Account number: __________________________

For Non-Sponsored RF accounts, please list Award Term date: ________________

Name of advisor/mentor: _____________________________________________________
I understand that by signing this application, I am acknowledging that I will use the funds to conduct an original research project under the guidance of my faculty mentor and that the information contained in this application is true and accurate.

Applicant Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________

I (faculty/staff name), ________________________________, understand that by signing this application, I am acknowledging that the above-mentioned student is conducting a research project under my supervision and that this research opportunity must be listed on the CURCA website.

I also attest to the fact that I have read the student’s application for accuracy and grammar as they relate to our field of study. If IRB approval is necessary for the project, I attest that any student working with human subjects has been added to the IRB project approval, and has completed the CITI training requirements.

Faculty/Staff Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________

I, (department chair name) ________________________________, understand that by signing this application, I am acknowledging that the above-mentioned students are conducting a research project within the department I currently oversee. I understand that I will be notified upon the decision regarding this application and that a faculty/staff member in my department may receive research funding should the application be approved.

Please refer back to Item 1, Fund Transfer, before signing. By signing this form, you approve of the account supplied under Item 1. If you wish to alter the account or provide a different account for the transfer of funds, please list the correct account information below. Final funding account preference will be given to the department chair.

Name of Department Financial Contact (who has signature authority on the account):
___________________________________________________________________

Department: ________________________________

Campus Address: ______________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________________________________________

Account number: ______________________________________________________

For Non-Sponsored RF accounts, please list Award Term date: _______________

Name of advisor/mentor: ________________________________________________

Department Chair Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________
Undergraduate Research Awards
Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities
University at Buffalo
Award Certificate of Understanding

To be completed by student applicants:

- I certify that I will use this award for the intended research endeavor as specified on the attached application.

- I understand that if there is a change in the conditions under which the funds were granted, these changes must be approved by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities prior to the expenditure of the funds.

- I understand that the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities and the award selection committee may follow up with me concerning the outcomes of my project.

- I understand that I am expected to present a poster about this research project at the annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence. I understand that it is my responsibility to fill out an application to present at the annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence.

Full name (print): ____________________________________________

Signature of applicant: ______________________________________ Date: ____________

UB Person Number: ____________________________________________