

2016-17 Research Reinvestment Fund Undergraduate Assistantship Awards Competition

The University of Maine System (UMS) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the **2016-17 Research Reinvestment Fund (RRF) Undergraduate Assistantship Awards**. The purpose of the RRF undergraduate assistantship awards is to provide funding for undergraduate assistants to work with UMS faculty/staff on research projects that will enable researchers from all disciplines and ranks to strengthen research, commercialization, and economic development activities that support Maine businesses and industries critical to the state's economy. A related goal for the RRF undergraduate assistantships is to better position research groups to be more competitive in obtaining future funding from federal, state, system or commercial sources. Applications may be in either MEIF or non-MEIF focus areas. Collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, which include UMS campus and/or external partners, are highly encouraged.

Each undergraduate assistantship award supports a \$5,000 stipend and \$2000 for materials and supplies and travel related to carrying out project research or presenting findings of the project. The assistantships will be made for 1 year and may be used for student support during the academic semesters, over the summer, or a combination thereof. Applicants should propose a twelve-month project period in their executive summaries. More than one undergraduate fellowship can be requested by an applicant, provided that there is adequate justification provided in the executive summary. Assistantships may potentially be renewed on a competitive basis for a total of two years support. The RRF undergraduate assistantship awards will support eligible undergraduate students enrolled at a UMS institution. Future RRF undergraduate assistantship competitions will be held on an annual basis through FY 19.

A competitive process will be employed to identify the highest quality research and development groups. Groups are encouraged to collaborate with UMS campuses and/or external partners in order to form competitive teams. Eligible projects will propose research and economic development activities that directly benefit Maine industries and enhance Maine's economic well-being.

Eligible areas include (with some overlap):

- Maine's natural resource- based businesses and industries (agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, forestry, energy)
- MTI's seven Maine Technology Sectors (biotechnology, aquaculture and marine technology, composite materials technology, environmental technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, information technology, precision manufacturing technology)
- High-tech financial and business services tied to Maine businesses and industries
- Signature areas of excellence developed by each UMS campus that meet the economic development requirements as defined above.
- Areas identified by funded RRF Seed, Planning and Graduate Assistantship proposals

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There are two deadlines associated with this competition:

For projects requesting support for Summer 2017 through Spring 2018, applications are accepted between December 22, 2016 and January 10, 2017 by 4:30 pm.

For projects requesting support for Fall 2017 through Summer 2018, Applications accepted between May 5, 2017 and May 31, 2017 by 4:30 pm.

How to apply:

Interested UMS faculty members should submit an application package using our *InfoReady Review* grant application submission portal: <https://umaine.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#>

The grant application will include the following components that you will upload as attachments within the *InfoReady Review* portal:

- Executive summary of the proposed research project (no more than 2 pages) which identifies the UMS institution/s and other partners involved in the project and describes the importance of the project to research, commercialization, and economic development activities within Maine. If applicable, justification must be provided for a multiple student assistantship request. Please also provide preferred start and end dates of the 12 month project.
- A mentoring plan for the student(s) detailing the advisor/s experience in undergraduate student research advising, the appropriateness and roles and responsibilities of each partner, student physical location and relevant facilities, day-to-day supervision and guidance. The mentoring plan should be submitted via the attached table (if support for more than one student is requested, please complete a unique mentoring table for each student).
- A budget and budget justification for project related materials/supplies and travel
- CVs of all participating UMS faculty members and external partners (not to exceed 5 pages each).
- Letter(s) of support from department/college and/or external partners (optional).

A report will be required half way through the period of support to evaluate student(s) progress toward meeting the stated objectives of the research.

Undergraduate students will be required to present their research at an appropriate event whose scope is state/regional in nature within one year of the completion of the award period; the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Maine must be notified when the presentation has been given. A specific event should be identified and the required funds identified/budgeted. Examples of appropriate events include: University of Maine Research Expo, North-East Research Development Workshop (NERD), Fisherman's Forum, Stakeholder Meetings, Meetings of National Societies, etc.

Questions about the RRF undergraduate assistantships may be directed to:

Jason Charland, Director of Grant Development, University of Maine, 207-581-2461,

jason.charland@maine.edu

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EVALUATION CRITERIA

Intellectual Merit 25 POINTS	Poor (0 POINTS)	Good (10 POINT)	Very Good (20 POINTS)	Excellent (25 POINTS)	SCORE
Evaluation Criteria for Intellectual merit	Proposed research has significant deficiencies which compromise its likelihood of success	Proposed research has minor deficiencies but is likely to be somewhat successful	Proposed research is well conceived and is likely to be successful	Proposed research is very well conceived and is highly likely to be successful	25
Relevance to Maine's Economy 30 POINTS	Poor (0 POINTS)	Good (10 POINT)	Very Good (20 POINTS)	Excellent (30 POINTS)	SCORE
Evaluation Criteria for Relevance to Maine's Economy	No clear link of the proposed activities to Maine's economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development low	Proposed activities somewhat linked to Maine's economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development moderate	Proposed activities well linked to Maine's economy. High likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development	Proposed activities intimately linked to Maine's economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development very high	30
Mentoring Plan 15 POINTS	Poor (0 POINTS)	Good (5 POINT)	Very Good (10 POINTS)	Excellent (15 POINTS)	SCORE
Evaluation Criteria for Mentoring Plan	Advisor/co-advisors lack experience, location and facilities are not well conceived and/or day-to-day advising is not available	Advisor/co-advisors are somewhat experienced, location and facilities are somewhat problematic and/or day-to-day advising is generally available	Advisor/co-advisors are experienced, location and facilities are suitable and/or day-to-day advising is available	Advisor/co-advisors are very experienced, location and facilities are highly appropriate and day-to-day advising is available	15
Extent of Collaboration 15 POINTS	Poor (0 POINTS)	Good (5 POINT)	Very Good (10 POINTS)	Excellent (15 POINTS)	SCORE
Evaluation Criteria for Extent of Collaboration and Appropriateness of the Participants	Proposal has no evidence of collaboration across the UMS and/or external partners, collaborations are not clearly linked to the proposed activities, roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined	Proposal has some evidence of collaboration across the UMS and/or external partners, collaborations are linked to the proposed activities, roles and responsibilities are somewhat defined	Proposal has good collaboration across the UMS and/or external partners, collaborations are well linked to the proposed activities, roles and responsibilities are defined	Proposal has strong evidence of collaboration across the UMS and/or external partners, collaborations are clearly linked to the proposed activities, roles and responsibilities are clearly defined	15
Research Presentation 15 POINTS	Poor (0 POINTS)	Good (5 POINT)	Very Good (10 POINTS)	Excellent (15 POINTS)	SCORE
Evaluation Criteria for Research Presentation	Proposal has no plan for the student to present their research at an event with a state/regional focus	Proposal has a plan for the student to present their research at an event, but the scope of the event is primarily local	Proposal has a plan for the student to present their research at an event, but a specific event has not been identified, or support has not been budgeted/identified	Proposal has a plan for the student to present their research at an event whose scope is state/regional and the required funds have been budgeted/identified	15
TOTAL POINTS					100

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Advisor (s) (Name & Title) (Undergraduate students are required to have a primary advisor. Additional advisors can also be included, if applicable)	Department & Institution	Undergraduate Student Research Advising Experience (Number of Undergraduate Students Advised)
1 (Advisor, required)		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Student Physical Location		
Plan for Immediate Daily Oversight of the Student		
Expected Period of Undergraduate Student Research Performance (Spring, Spring and Summer, Fall only etc.)		
Notes:		

This table is representative only and may be tailored as necessary to suite the potential student and project