The University of Maine System (UMS) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2017-18 Research Reinvestment Fund (RRF) Undergraduate Assistantship Awards. The purpose of the RRF undergraduate assistantship awards is to provide funding for undergraduate students 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. Only one undergraduate fellowship may be requested by an applicant, due to limited funding available for the current round. 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

**Applications will be accepted between May 5 and June 2, 2017 by 4:30pm and will support projects that span September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018. All applications must be submitted via the InfoReady portal as a single PDF.**
2017-18 Research Reinvestment Fund Undergraduate Assistantship Awards Competition
(Updated March 2017)

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 must include the following components in the order listed below that you will upload as a single PDF attachment within the InfoReady Review portal:

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. A budget and budget justification for project related materials/supplies and travel
4. Letter(s) of support from the appropriate department chair/dean/or university administrator and/or external business leader (optional).
5. CVs of all participating UMS faculty members and external partners (not to exceed 5 pages each)

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
## 2017-18 Research Reinvestment Fund Undergraduate Assistantship Awards Competition
(Updated March 2017)

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual Merit</th>
<th>Poor (0 POINTS)</th>
<th>Good (10 POINTS)</th>
<th>Very Good (20 POINTS)</th>
<th>Excellent (25 POINTS)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 POINTS</td>
<td>Proposed research has significant deficiencies which compromise its likelihood of success</td>
<td>Proposed research has minor deficiencies but is likely to be somewhat successful</td>
<td>Proposed research is well conceived and is likely to be successful</td>
<td>Proposed research is very well conceived and is highly likely to be successful</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance to Maine’s Economy</th>
<th>Poor (0 POINTS)</th>
<th>Good (10 POINT)</th>
<th>Very Good (20 POINTS)</th>
<th>Excellent (30 POINTS)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 POINTS</td>
<td>No clear link of the proposed activities to Maine’s economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development low</td>
<td>Proposed activities somewhat linked to Maine’s economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development moderate</td>
<td>Proposed activities well linked to Maine’s economy. High likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development</td>
<td>Proposed activities intimately linked to Maine’s economy. Likelihood of job creation, workforce and economic development very high</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentoring Plan</th>
<th>Poor (0 POINTS)</th>
<th>Good (5 POINT)</th>
<th>Very Good (10 POINTS)</th>
<th>Excellent (15 POINTS)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 POINTS</td>
<td>Advisor/co-advisors lack experience, location and facilities are not well conceived and/or day-to-day advising is not available</td>
<td>Advisor/co-advisors are somewhat experienced, location and facilities are somewhat problematic and/or day-to-day advising is generally available</td>
<td>Advisor/co-advisors are experienced, location and facilities are suitable and/or day-to-day advising is available</td>
<td>Advisor/co-advisors are very experienced, location and facilities are highly appropriate and day-to-day advising is available</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extent of Collaboration</th>
<th>Poor (0 POINTS)</th>
<th>Good (5 POINT)</th>
<th>Very Good (10 POINTS)</th>
<th>Excellent (15 POINTS)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 POINTS</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Proposal has good collaboration across the UMS and/or external partners, collaborations are well linked to the proposed activities, roles and responsibilities are defined</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<th>Research Presentation</th>
<th>Poor (0 POINTS)</th>
<th>Good (5 POINT)</th>
<th>Very Good (10 POINTS)</th>
<th>Excellent (15 POINTS)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 POINTS</td>
<td>Proposal has no plan for the student to present their research at an event with a state/regional focus</td>
<td>Proposal has a plan for the student to present their research at an event, but the scope of the event is primarily local</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<th>TOTAL POINTS</th>
<th>100</th>
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</table>
### Advising Committee Composition (Name & Title)  |  Department & Institution  |  Undergraduate Student Research Advising Experience (Number of Undergraduate Students Advised)
---|---|---
1 (Advisor)  |  |  
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.