

Undergraduate Funding Tips

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Undergraduates can and do get funded!!! There are many scholarships and grants that are only open to undergraduate students. Many of them are available right here on campus.

Most scholarship applications ask you to write a proposal. The most common questions seem to be:

- How the experience will benefit your future career?
- What do you expect to gain from the experience?
- How will this experience help you academically?
- Why do you want to work abroad?

- Do put effort into answering these questions. Answering questions like these will not only make writing your proposal easier but it will help you gain an understanding of what you want to do after graduation.
- Start early. Just because you may think you know what you want to write about does not mean that it will be easy to put that into writing. Also, have at least one person proofread your proposal. It helps if one person knows about your interests and the other does not. The first can ensure that you wrote what you intended and the other that it all makes sense. It is very easy to forget to explain something that is second nature to you. Talking about your interests and what you expect from the summer will help you brainstorm ideas and give you a clearer picture of what you want to do.
- Follow all instructions. The LSA Scholarship requests that you do not staple the paper work. You could use a large envelope instead. Check the deadlines for applications.
- Learn about the organization you will be working for and incorporate that into your proposal. If you do not have a placement yet, you can write about the placement program. Also, read up on the institution whose scholarship you are applying for. You are trying to convince them to give you money; they want you to know about them.
- Once you have a basic proposal, you should be able to use the ideas for most of your applications. You will likely have to tailor it to answer specific questions but you will not have to start from scratch each time you have to write a proposal. But be careful about coping and pasting together a new proposal, it might not come out the way you want. Do proofread it yourself and have someone else read it too.
- Keep all relevant information in one place. Have a folder for each scholarship/grant you are applying for and write the deadlines in an obvious place.
- Check all requirements before you apply and after you receive the scholarship. Some institutions require that you write a paper about your experience or a thank you note for the donors.

Tips

- Ask the organization you will be working for if they provide anything. Do they provide lunches or pay for transportation? Will they provide housing?
- If you have questions, don't be intimidated to call or email the organization. Submitting the proper paperwork on time could make a difference between receiving the scholarship or not.
- **Department funding:** Ask your concentration department if they have any funding. Sometimes departments do not publicize their scholarships and grants, so it is always worth asking. Also, the internship or research program that you are going through may also have a scholarship fund. Don't hesitate to apply for smaller scholarships, the money adds up and they may be less competitive than some of the large grants funded by the university.
- Talk to your professor or concentration advisor they may know of a scholarship offered for your specific field.
- Check sites like FastWeb for international internship funding.