

Deans' Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF)

Deadline for Proposals: 11:59pm March 22, 2019 Shanghai time

The Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF) awards funding to undergraduates at NYU Shanghai for summer research in any field of study.

The DURF broadly defines research as scholarly or artistic activities that lead to the production of new knowledge; to increased problem solving capabilities, including design and analysis; to original, critical or historical theory and interpretation; or to the production of art or artistic performance. Students interested in any form of research may apply. You can work alone or in a group, in a traditional or interdisciplinary field, in a professor's lab or in a studio – it's up to you. However, you will need a well thought-out, feasible plan and a Faculty Mentor willing to commit to supervising your project.

It is permissible for your research to be conducted outside of Shanghai. However, the proposal should include an explanation for why the work can be done in the proposed location and how you and your Faculty Mentor will work together if you are not in the same location. The limits on participation and mentorship are not meant to be constraints on research, but only reflect limitations on DURF funding. Students are encouraged to do research which falls outside of the DURF program, in addition, students may participate in a DURF project even if they are not one of the DURF-funded team members of that project.

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply if you satisfy all of the below requirements:

- You are enrolled at NYU Shanghai in spring 2019 (even if you are studying away from Shanghai);
- You will also be an enrolled NYU Shanghai student for fall 2019 (even if you are studying away from Shanghai);
- You are in good academic standing (not on academic probation) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50. If you have a lower GPA but wish to apply, you may submit a supplementary statement to illustrate your research abilities and why you think you should be considered for the award despite not meeting the GPA requirement.
- You are able to secure a Faculty Mentor to supervise your project. The Faculty Mentor should mentor no more than two projects, and no more than four students during the summer. Please note that Teaching Assistants, Resident Research Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows may not serve as DURF Faculty Mentors.

You may apply to do a project on your own or work with other students on a group project. There may be no more than four members per group. If you are receiving any other funding for the research project, you are not eligible to also receive DURF funding. If you accept other funding after you receive DURF funding, you will need to return your DURF funding.

Funding Amount

Each selected student (regardless of whether they are working on their own or in a group) will individually receive a 6,520 RMB (US\$1,000) stipend, disbursed in two allotments. 3,260 RMB (US\$500) will be provided at the beginning of the approved project period and the remaining 3,260RMB (US\$500) will be provided after successful submission and evaluation of the Final Project Form, which will be sent to you by the DURF program. The funding is subject to all applicable taxes and does not affect financial aid.

There is an additional opportunity to apply for funding of a Project Budget to cover specific materials, supplies, and travel related to the project. Individual projects may apply for Project Budget funding of up to 3,260 RMB (US\$500). Group projects may apply for Project Budget funding of up to 6,520 RMB (US\$1,000). To be eligible for Project Budget funding, you must submit a detailed Project Budget as part of your proposal. If you are approved for the funding, you must submit original receipts/official fapiao for the approved budget expenses at the end of the project period.

Note: Expenses related to travel to one's hometown or home country from another country may not be included in the Project Budget.

Requirements

If you are selected and accept the DURF funding, you are agreeing to:

- Carry out the project laid out in your proposal.
- Follow institutional guidelines on human subjects research, if applicable to your project (see guidelines below);
- Meet the expectations set with your Faculty Mentor throughout the duration of the Project.
- Complete a Final Report Form (sent to you by the DURF program) that summarizes your results and lessons learned. The deadline to submit the Final Report Form is August 23, 2019.
- Complete any other assessments connected to your project that DURF requires.

Failure to satisfy the above requirements will result in inability to receive the full DURF funding amount and ineligibility for future awards.

A Note on Human Subjects Research

At NYU Shanghai, undergraduate research projects involving human subjects must be independently submitted for NYU Shanghai Institutional Review Board (IRB) review prior to being conducted. If you will be working with Human Subjects at any point during your research, you must review and follow the NYU Shanghai guidelines ([Section 12.4.2](#)).

If you are considering recruiting NYU Shanghai students in the research, please review and follow the [guidelines](#). You should work with your Faculty Mentor and make sure that they are aware of their roles and responsibility, including that for projects involving IRB approval, faculty should serve as the principal investigator.

In your proposal, you must indicate that you understand the requirements of the IRB in your proposal and explain how you will comply with the requirements of the IRB. For more resources, you can visit <https://research.shanghai.nyu.edu/resources>.

Application Process

Your application is your chance to tell us about your proposed research, its significance, and how well you are prepared to undertake such a project. If you are working in a group, each group member must submit an individual application. There can be no more than four members in a group. The online application is available at: <https://shanghai.nyu.edu/academics/undergraduate-research>. The deadline is 11:59pm March 22, 2019 Shanghai time. Notifications of results will be sent within a month after the deadline.

Application Components:

- ***Project Proposal:*** 3 pages maximum.
Please follow the guidelines for Type I and Type II proposals listed below. You may submit either type, but you must follow the given structure.
- ***Biography:*** 1 page maximum.
Tell us about yourself and your story: where you come from, what you have done at NYU Shanghai, what interests you, and why this project is important to you. The purpose is to help the Committee to get to know you better.
- ***University Transcript***
Please include an official or unofficial transcript. Your GPA is one of the factors the selection committee will consider but it is not the only factor. We will also look at overall trends in your academic performance to date. If you had a difficult semester or two, we will focus on your trajectory over time. If your GPA is below the required 3.50, you may submit a supplementary statement to illustrate your research abilities and why you think you should be considered for the program despite not meeting the GPA requirement.
- ***Resume:*** 1 page maximum
If you do not have an updated resume, please consult the Career Development Center for advice on resume writing.
- ***Past Projects (if applicable)***
Please let us know if you participated in past NYU Shanghai-funded projects. Provide the names of the projects, the dates of the projects, and the sources of funding.
- ***Endorsement Letter from Faculty Mentor (to be emailed directly from the Faculty Mentor to shanghai.durf@nyu.edu)***
Each student who applies to the DURF must have a Faculty Mentor to oversee his or her project. Please note that Teaching Assistants, Resident Research Fellows and Post-Doctoral fellows may not serve as DURF Faculty Mentors. The Faculty Mentor should oversee no more than two DURF projects, and no more than four students total. We expect that the Faculty Mentor will have substantial contact with the student(s) during the course of the project(s). The commitments of a Faculty Mentor are to:

- Give feedback to the student(s) during the process of drafting the DURF application;
 - Send a Letter of Endorsement in support of the student's application to shanghai.durf@nyu.edu by 11:59pm Shanghai time on March 22, 2019. The letter should comment on the project's feasibility and value as well as the student(s)' ability to carry out the project. It should explain how the Faculty member will supervise and mentor the student, especially if they are in two different locations. If more than one student is applying for the same project, the Faculty Mentor should comment specifically on each individual student's capabilities.
 - Fill out an evaluation form at the end of the Project evaluating the quality of the student's project execution and project outcome.
- The student and faculty member should discuss the following questions:
 1. Over the summer, how often will the Faculty Mentor and student meet and/or communicate?
 2. What is the student expected to show the faculty member at different stages of the project?
 3. If there are other advisors involved (e.g. graduate students), what will be their role and responsibilities?

If more than one student is applying for the same project, the Faculty Mentor should comment specifically on each individual student's capabilities in the letter.

- Writing Your Proposal

Writing a research proposal will help you clarify your project and will give you valuable experience for any proposal writing you may do beyond NYU Shanghai. All proposals submitted are read and evaluated by a selection committee made up of faculty from each of the disciplinary groups on campus. Your proposal will be read by someone in the discipline of your project and read by faculty members who are not necessarily familiar with that discipline. For this reason, a successful proposal will be written in such a way that an intelligent reader who is not familiar with your field can still understand the research question you are proposing and the significance of this research in a larger context. The committee should be able to understand easily what you are studying and why it is important.

The effectiveness of your proposal will depend on your ability to explain the nature, context and scope of the project. The selection committee will also be looking for an indication that your project will be more than just a learning experience. What does it contribute to your field that we do not already know? Please make sure to put the key question or theme of your project at the very start of the proposal. Readers should not have to search through the proposal for the answer to "What are you studying and why is it important?" Make certain that the proposal is in your words – not your professor's words!

Proposal Format

There are two types of proposal formats. Most students should submit Type I proposals. For students who wish to work in the Arts and Creative Humanities, Type II proposals are most appropriate. See detailed guidelines for Type I and Type II proposals below.

All students are encouraged to seek help from the Academic Resource Center (ARC) in preparing your proposal. If you are uncertain about whether Proposal Type I or Type II is most appropriate for you,

you may consult the relevant Dean for your major or project. To allow sufficient time for communication, appointments with Deans should be made for before March 5, 2019.

Type I Proposal Guidelines

Your proposal may be up to three pages in length. We recommend at least a 12 point, serif font (such as Times New Roman) and single spaced. It should include the following sections in order, with the headings:

Title: At the top of the first page write your name and project title. Do not include a cover sheet or separate title page.

Abstract: A summary of your research question and your project design. Researchers typically write the abstract after they have finished writing the rest of the proposal. Include it as the first section on the first page of your proposal.

Research Question and Significance: What is the question that you want to explore in your research and why is it an interesting and important question? In thinking about the significance, try to take the position of an educated newspaper reader. If she or he were to see an article about your research in the newspaper, how would you explain the importance of your project? Please be sure to put this information at the start of the paragraph.

Project Design and Feasibility: How will you go about exploring your research question? What will be your methods and timetable? How will this research fit into your schedule? If you are not doing this as part of a course, how will you find the time necessary to do the research? This section allows you to use discipline-specific language to explain the details of your project.

Group Partnership Plan (if applicable): If more than one student is applying for the same project, describe why you feel it is necessary to work as a group. How you will organize the work and what will each person's responsibilities be? If you are in different locations, how will you communicate and keep each other accountable and on track for normal progress?

Background: What courses or work experiences have prepared you to undertake this project? Why is this important to you? What are your career aspirations? What is your background? Have you worked on this project before? Is this part of a Senior Thesis project? This important section allows the reader to know you better as a person and to better understand your motivations for undertaking this particular research project.

Feedback and Evaluation: Who will provide feedback on and evaluate your project and according to what schedule and what criteria?

Dissemination of Knowledge: How will you share the results of your project? What form will your final report take? We strongly encourage DURF recipients to present at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium which takes place each May.

Project Budget (Optional): If you are applying for funding for a Project Budget, include a list of all the items you propose to purchase and your best estimate of the cost of each item. You must include specific vendor information - where you plan to purchase the item(s) and how much each item costs.

All expense items should be explained either in the body of your proposal or in a budget narrative included on your budget page. For example, if you are asking for funds to purchase a piece of software, is that software available through the Library or a university or public license? Does a faculty or staff member have the software that you could use? The selection committee reserves the right to disallow certain line items and frequently approves only partial budgets.

Please note:

- Conference fees are not allowed.
- The committee rarely approves course fee requests.
- Travel costs must be directly related to the proposed research and fully justified; the committee rarely funds airline tickets or international travel.
- Expenses related to travel to one's hometown or home country from another country may not be included in the Project Budget.
- Equipment purchases must be fully supported in the proposal and equipment must remain the property of NYU Shanghai; state which department at NYU Shanghai will be responsible for it when you complete your project.
- Book purchases are approved only if you can show it is impossible to get what you need from a library or on loan.
- If you are approved for the funding, you must submit original receipts/official fapiao for the approved budget expenses at the end of the project period.

Tips

- Remember to spell check! You are asking for money and your proposal should be a reflection of your commitment to the project.
- You are highly encouraged to work with your Faculty Mentor on your proposal and to meet with the relevant Dean at least once prior to submitting a DURF proposal to review a draft. Appointments with Deans should be scheduled for prior to March 5, 2019 in order to allow sufficient time for communication.

Type II Proposal Guidelines (For Arts and Humanities topics)

Your DURF Art and Humanities Proposal should place your project in a larger creative context, while providing specific details about your objectives, process and product, as well as the anticipated impact on your development as an artist and/or humanist. A typical problem is to offer too broad a discussion and too much personal background. The directions below are intended to help you organize your proposal and present your information in a way that balances significance and detail and meets the requirements of grant-giving agencies, including DURF.

Your proposal may be up to three pages in length. We recommend at least a 12 point, serif font (such as Times New Roman) and single spaced. It should include the following sections in order, with the headings:

Title: At the top of the first page write your name and project title. Do not include a cover sheet or separate title page.

Abstract

The Abstract is a brief but specific statement of the project's objectives, methods, and impact as you as an artist, musician, and/or humanist: what you hope to accomplish, using what means and resources, and why the project is important to you, your field, and to the larger world.

Project Narrative

The project narrative is a detailed discussion of your proposed project, including the objectives, the methods you plan to use, and how your project relates and contributes to the particular creative field(s). Answer the following questions in the narrative:

- a. What makes your project original?
- b. Why is it important that you undertake this project?
- c. Objective or goal: What do you want to achieve?
- d. Conceptual approach: How are you approaching this project?
- e. Issues: What concern, problem, or need will the work address?
- f. Approach: What medium and genre will you be using and why are they appropriate for this work?
- g. Vision: What is your vision for the final project?

You should also describe how the proposed work fits into and advances the field's current creative context and conversation, answering these questions:

- a. What are the sources of inspiration for this project?
- b. How does it build on or differ from past or current work by others in the field and/or related fields?
- c. In what specific ways will this work advance the current creative context and conversation?

Project Process

Describe the process involved with the project.

- a. How do you plan to accomplish the project?
- b. Provide a detailed timeline, including:
 1. Pre-production research
 2. Production schedule itemizing tasks and allocating time
 3. Post-production, if applicable

Group Partnership Plan (if applicable): If more than one student is applying for the same project, describe why you feel it is necessary to work as a group. How you will organize the work and what will each person's responsibilities be? If you are in different locations, how will you communicate and keep each other accountable and on track for normal progress?

Outcomes

Outline the outcomes of your project.

- a. *Benefit to the artist and humanist:* How will this project/product enhance your interests and skills, directions and opportunities for further work?
- b. *Exhibition/Presentation:* How, where and when do you plan to present your work? If no additional exhibition is planned, how will you disseminate the knowledge gained from the project? We strongly encourage DURF recipients to present at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium which takes place each May.

Supporting Materials

All proposals must contain supporting materials to clarify the proposal. These include prior art or creative work; links to CD/DVD documentation; music compositions; sketches of proposed work; preliminary research; archive information, etc.

Project Budget (Optional): If you are applying for funding for a Project Budget, include a list of all the items you propose to purchase and your best estimate of the cost of each item. You must include specific vendor information - where you plan to purchase the item(s) and how much each item costs. All expense items should be explained either in the body of your proposal or in a budget narrative included on your budget page. For example, if you are asking for funds to purchase a piece of software, is that software available through the Library or a university or public license? Does a faculty or staff member have the software that you could use? The selection committee reserves the right to disallow certain line items and frequently approves only partial budgets.

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