2019 IAB Graduate Summer Research Award Competition

The Institute of Arctic Biology has funds for 10 Graduate Summer Research Awards each of $7500. These awards are intended to support either incoming graduate students or continuing graduate students who are in good standing. They are a potential source of funding while students are working full-time on their graduate research.

These awards are based on both merit of the proposal and need for support, but also consider productivity (of continuing students), attendance of the Life Sciences Seminar series, and past support of the applicant. Additionally an effort will be made to distribute awards across students of different IAB faculty members.

A committee appointed by IAB Director Brian Barnes will review applications and provide their recommendations to the Director for final decisions.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet all criteria.

• Incoming or continuing UAF graduate students (continuing students must have been registered for ≥6 credit hours/semester during the 2018-2019 academic year).
• Good academic standing (GPA≥3.0, current Graduate Study Plan and Annual Report).
• Must devote full time to research during the period of support*.
• Must not be supported by other funds during the period of support.
• Major advisor must be an IAB faculty member.
• Previous award recipients must have provided the required Award Report on time.
• All required safety trainings must be completed (at the time of submission for continuing students and prior to receiving award payments for incoming students)

*Applicants may request either full awards (June – mid-August) or partial awards (if funding is not required for the full period).

Application instructions:

1. Cover page (1 page maximum) to include:
   • research title,
   • student name and email,
   • degree program,
   • Period for which support is requested (Full support or support for only a portion of the period),
   • advisor name and email,
   • names of all graduate committee members,
   • timetable for the entire degree program.

2. Project Summary (1 page maximum) to include:
   • Significance: Provide a broad statement of research goals and place the research in larger scientific context.
   • Specific aims of the research.
   • Approach: Summary of research design and expected outcomes of thesis research.

3. References (1 page maximum) used in Project Summary in standard, consistent format.
4. Curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum).
5. Graduate research support (1 page maximum) including past, current, and pending. Include a list of all proposals submitted as a UAF graduate student, and indicate if each was funded. For funded proposals, include both the amount and duration of support.
6. **Graduate Study Plan and Graduate School Annual Report**, most recent copy (not applicable to incoming and first year students).

7. **Letter of support** from the student’s IAB faculty advisor. This should be a succinct letter that addresses: a) if the applicant is making satisfactory research progress, b) whether other support is available for the student and the source of the alternative support, and c) the letter must include the following statement: “I have read [applicant’s name]’s proposal and support this graduate research award request; I accept responsibility to review the summary report.”

Combine items 1-7 above in a single PDF (formatting: minimum 11 point font, single-spacing, 1” margins) and email to: [UAF-IAB-DirectorsOffice@alaska.edu](mailto:UAF-IAB-DirectorsOffice@alaska.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on April 5, 2019

- **Evaluation**: Applications will be evaluated on a combination of merit and need. Preference will be given to applications that follow the application instructions (including page limits); those that deviate from the instructions will be considered if funds remain. Specifically, applications will be evaluated based on 5 criteria:
  1. **Significance**: Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
  2. **Specific Aims**: Are the specific aims clearly stated, aligned with the significance, and testable?
  3. **Approach**: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
  4. **Feasibility**: Is the project focused and the timeline feasible?
  5. **Need for support**: Is other funding available to support the student?

The committee will then discuss the applications. For *otherwise competitive applications*, final funding recommendations will include consideration of these additional factors:

- **Evidence of past productivity and progress towards graduation** (only for students in at least their 2nd year of their program): as evidenced from CV, Graduate Study Plan and Annual Report.

- **Attendance of the IAB Life Sciences seminars** (only for continuing students). Preference will be given to applications from students who attended 80% of talks between Sept. 2018 and Mar. 2019. Students with valid excuses (e.g., conflicting TA assignment, off-campus research activities – should submit documentation with their application).

- **Past receipt of this award**. Preference will be given to applicants who have received fewer past IAB Graduate Summer Research Awards.

- **Distribution of awards across faculty advisors**.