2020 IAB Graduate Student Summer Research Award Competition

The Institute of Arctic Biology has funds for six Graduate Student Summer Research Awards of $7500 each. These awards are intended to support either incoming graduate students or continuing graduate students who are in good standing. They are a source of funding while students are working full-time on their graduate research during summer 2020.

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.

• New or continuing full-time UAF graduate students.
• Good academic standing (for continuing students: ≥ 3.0 GPA, 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 or partial (if funding is not required for the full period) awards.

Evaluation: Applications will be evaluated on a combination of merit and need. 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 the seminars held during the 2019-2020 academic year. 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**.
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,
   - time table 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** 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,
   c) whether you anticipate Covid-19 related impediments to the proposed research, and
   d) your contingency plan to ensure that the student makes steady progress towards degree completion over the summer if their research should be disrupted by Covid-19 related research restrictions.

Combine items 1-6 above in a single PDF (formatting: minimum 11 point font, single-spacing, 1” margins) and email to:

pdoak@alaska.edu no later than 5 p.m. on April 30, 2020

The letter of support can either be included in the application pdf or sent independently by the faculty advisor.