



A Quick Guide for UBRP Mentors

What is UBRP?

The University of Arizona's Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) enhances students' education by partnering with researchers to provide paid apprenticeship-style experiences for students to participate in mentored, self-directed scientific work in biologically-related areas (broadly defined) which contributes to the fund of new knowledge. Students begin UBRP by conducting research full-time (35 hours/week) over the summer and may continue on a part-time basis (~10 hours/week) during the academic year. All students are paid hourly wages, provided 50% by their mentors and 50% by UBRP.

UBRP Facts

- The program includes mentors from eight colleges at UA.
- UBRP was created in 1988 and continues to run strong! In fact, some UBRP Faculty Mentors are also UBRP Alumni.
- Every year a selection committee chooses students to participate in UBRP; these students are top-caliber.
- UBRP students are paid wages, not stipends, making it possible for mentors to use research grants to cover their part of the students' wages.

UBRP's Aim Is to Help Its Student Participants:

1. Learn and participate in the conduct of research.
2. Make informed decisions about career direction.
3. Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, learn to work as a team
4. Hone professional skills (such as communicating science to laypeople, comprehending ethical issues related to science, creating & presenting a scientific poster, etc.)
5. Learn about the breadth of research being done on campus.
6. Join a community of scholars.

Information/Logistics Mentors Should Know:

- New UBRP students start the program at the beginning of summer, and are expected to **work full-time** (35 hours/week), for a minimum of 12 weeks during the summer. Students typically search for a mentor with whom to work during February and March of each year.
- For the summer, UBRP Mentors must be willing and able to contribute **50% of students' wages and ERE** from a source they identify (i.e. research grants, departmental funds, start up or bridge funds, etc.). The UBRP Office covers the other 50% through external grants and internal funds. For Summer 2023, new students will be paid \$14.50/hour and continuing students will be paid \$15.00/hour with an approximate ERE rate of 2.0% (the ERE rate changes each fiscal year). Additional UBRP-related programs, such as the Native American Cancer Prevention Partnership (NACP) and the Environmental Health Sciences Transformative Research Undergraduate Experience Program (EHS-TRUE) provide additional funding so that participants in these

programs do not require the 50% mentor match. See our website for more details about our programs at <https://ubrp.arizona.edu/programs>.

- Pending funding and student/mentor evaluations, **students may continue in UBRP for the academic year** if they can commit at least 10 hours/week. UBRP students eligible for federal work-study (FWS) funds can continue for pay (with FWS covering 75% of a students' wages and the mentor and UBRP covering 12.5% each until FWS is expended; after this, students return to being funded 50% by their mentors and 50% by UBRP). Mentors are also welcome to cover 100% funding for any non-work-study eligible students they wish to support during the academic year. Alternatively, students can continue in the program for academic credit or as a volunteer.
- The UBRP Office handles the **selection and hiring** of students; mentors specify an account to be encumbered on a UBRP Commitment Form to cover 50% of a student's wages and identify a time approver to review the student's reported hours.
- During the summer, students are expected to attend an all-day **UBRP Orientation** on the first Monday after spring graduation. Additionally, students are expected to attend weekly **Wednesday Meetings** (each Wednesday from 3:30pm – 5:00pm) throughout the summer. These meetings alternate between UBRP Scientific Seminars and professional development workshops led by post-docs and graduate students, and students are paid for these meetings. Students are encouraged to participate in optional field trips and UBRP Ambassadors' activities.
- At the end of the summer, both **students and faculty complete an evaluation** of the UBRP experience. Students are also expected to submit a press release about their participation in research (which must be approved by the mentor prior to distribution), and an application to continue in UBRP if they wish to continue through the following academic year and have the requisite time to do so.
- UBRP students are expected to present their scientific findings at the **Annual UBRP Conference**, traditionally held annually on the third Saturday of January. The deadline for abstracts is traditionally the Monday after Thanksgiving. Mentors are strongly encouraged to attend to support their students. UBRP Outstanding Mentor awards are presented at the Conference.

How Do I Become a UBRP Mentor?

Please send us an e-mail with a one paragraph description of and keywords for your research, and we'll include you on our mentor list. Interested students can then contact you to arrange an interview to discuss the research experience in your lab for the upcoming summer.

Questions? Please contact:

Jennifer Cubeta, UBRP Director, cubeta@arizona.edu