



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 nine 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.
- The UBRP Office manages the UBRP program, as well as additional research programs.

UBRP's aim is to help all of 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 in mid-May, 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 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 2026, new students will be paid \$15.50/hour in their first summer, and continuing students will be paid \$16.00/hour with an approximate ERE rate of 2.0% (the ERE rate changes each fiscal year); the total summer cost to mentors is about \$3,320 for a new student and \$3,430 for a continuing student. **Some of the grant-funded programs under the UBRP umbrella provide 100% student funding so that no matching funds are required by mentors:** the Beckman Scholars Program, Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP),

Place-based Health Informatics Research Education (PHIRE), and Environmental Health Sciences – Research for Indigenous Student Engagement (EHS-RISE) programs. See our website for more details about our programs at <https://ubrp.arizona.edu/programs/overview>.

- 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 may opt to provide 100% funding for any non-work-study eligible students they wish to support during the academic year. Alternatively, students can continue in UBRP for academic credit or as a volunteer.
- The **UBRP Office handles the selection and hiring of students**. Before the summer begins, we will direct mentors to complete a Commitment Form, specifying an account to which 50% of a student's wages will be encumbered, and identifying a time approver to monitor the student's reported hours.
- **Summer activities:** New students are required to attend an all-day **UBRP Orientation** on the first Monday after spring graduation and may begin to conduct research afterwards. 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; students are paid for these meetings. Students also practice their **scientific communication skills** by developing a short post of their research suitable for online posting (with mentor permission) as well as a letter to a UBRP Supporter describing their research experience and its impact upon their future career and academic goals. Students are additionally 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 notify UBRP if they wish to continue in the program for the following academic year and can commit to at least 10 hours/week of research; a new commitment form will be completed for the academic year to finalize placement.
- 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 December 15. Mentors should provide guidance to students on the creation of their abstracts and posters and are strongly encouraged to attend to support their students. UBRP Outstanding Mentor awards are presented at the Conference every year.

How Do I Become a UBRP Mentor?

Please send us an e-mail with a one-paragraph description of your research, research keywords, and your website URL, 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, at cubeta@arizona.edu.