

Dear UA Faculty Mentors:

UA's Biology Research Abroad: Vistas Open! (BRAVO!) Program could support your outstanding undergraduate researcher to conduct research abroad with one of your international scientific collaborators this summer!

Please consider sharing this opportunity with your students and supporting them in applying, *especially those who are financially challenged or have never traveled outside the US before.*



What is BRAVO!?

In a nutshell, ***BRAVO! is a summer research program which funds proposals for UA undergraduates to conduct research abroad (10-12 weeks) with an international collaborator of their current UA research mentor.*** This experience serves to further ongoing collaboration between your research group and your foreign colleague, promote progress on a specific project, and/or facilitate the exchange of best practices and techniques, providing a unique opportunity for your undergrad researcher to grow scientifically and personally.

For participating undergraduates -- especially those who wouldn't or couldn't ordinarily pursue an opportunity abroad due to limitations in funding or lack of experience in international travel -- BRAVO! provides a unique opportunity to expand their scientific and cultural horizons through immersion in the global scientific community. ***BRAVO! provides full financial support up to \$8,000*** for the summer abroad, which typically covers all costs for airfare, lodging, food, visa fees, research supplies, and other travel-related expenses. Students who are financially challenged (i.e. eligible for the Pell Grant or federal work-study) may also request a stipend. The BRAVO! Director will assist all participants in preparing for and navigating through their international experiences.

I want to support my undergrad...are we suitable for BRAVO!?

Review the BRAVO! website to ***learn more*** about the program:

<https://ubrp.arizona.edu/programs/bravo-biology-research-abroad-vistas-open>. Please review the requirements below to ensure you and your student are eligible for BRAVO!

Student Eligibility Requirements	UA Mentor Eligibility Requirements
Interested in an international research experience to enhance their academic, career, or personal goals.	You have an established relationship with an international research collaborator who would serve well as a BRAVO! student's mentor abroad, scientifically as well as at the interpersonal level (those who enjoy working with and mentoring undergraduates, etc).
Is a UA undergraduate with an expected graduation date of at least <i>one semester after</i> the BRAVO! summer experience. (May graduates are not eligible to participate in BRAVO! in the summer after their graduation.)	

Has, or will have by the time of application to BRAVO!, a minimum of 6 months of previous research experience in the UA mentor's lab (can be through UBRP, or otherwise).	
Is mature, responsible, and capable of functioning independently in an unfamiliar country; would serve well as a representative of the mentor's lab and of the University of Arizona.	You are willing to assist the student in connecting with your foreign collaborator and working with them to develop a proposal for a suitable 10-12 week summer research project to be conducted at the foreign lab.
Priority is given to students who have not traveled outside the U.S. before, or have limited means to do so (i.e. are low-income, first-generation college students, etc.)	

My student and I are interested! How do we proceed?

- 1) First, ***UA faculty should initiate contact with their international collaborator(s)*** to inquire if they may be willing and able to host the undergrad in their research group for the summer. If so, discuss together the projects in which the student may be able to be involved and feasible scientific goals for the student's placement. (Would the student work on an ongoing project between the two groups, or a different one? What projects would be suitable for the student's level of experience? How might the placement of the student in the foreign lab benefit both their research group and yours? What assets or skills could the student bring to and from the experience? Etc.)
- 2) Once an ideal international mentor has been identified and the general scope of the student's potential involvement has been determined, ***the student should complete the BRAVO! Stage One Application, accessible on the BRAVO! website, by September 15.***
- 3) The BRAVO! Director will then follow up with each applicant and provide them with Stage Two application materials, which includes a proposal of the research to be done, a budget/justification, and letters of endorsement from their UA and international mentors. ***The Stage Two Application will be due on November 1.*** Students are expected to work closely with both their international and UA mentors on the development of their BRAVO! proposal.
- 4) ***Interviews will then be conducted by the BRAVO! Selection Committee and finalists will be notified by December 15.*** If selected, the students will then work with the BRAVO! Director in the Spring to prepare for their upcoming summer experience abroad.

If you or your student have any questions about BRAVO!, please feel free to let me know. You are also welcome to refer to me any undergraduate researchers in your lab whom you think might be good candidates, and I will reach out to them directly to encourage them to apply.

Thank you!

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