



THE VISION

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) was established in 1988 to provide undergraduates with a unique opportunity to participate in high-level research early in their academic careers. Since then, more than 6,000 first and second-year students have worked on research projects alongside faculty, research scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students in all academic disciplines and all UM schools and colleges.

THE VALUE

Many University of Michigan students are interested in pursuing research activities during their undergraduate careers. The benefits of such participation are significant:

- ▶ Undergraduates exposed to intensive field research experiences learn valuable research skills, gain mentors and role models, and clarify their academic and professional goals.
- ▶ Working laboratories are ideal venues for applying knowledge, building practical experience, and refining problem-solving skills.
- ▶ UROP experiences contribute to students' decisions to enter graduate and professional schools and to seek out opportunities for continued research in the public and private sectors.
- ▶ Longitudinal studies have also shown that UROP is critical in the retention of diverse students and their decision to pursue graduate and professional schools.

THE DIFFERENCE

Each year, UROP requires expendable funds for resources, programs, and activities that are not supported by the College but are nonetheless essential to the development of the program. Funding priorities include the following:

Summer Research Fellowships in the Life Sciences, Social Science, Humanities, Physical Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Research **\$300,000 to \$350,000**

Summer research fellowships offer students an intensive research experience that introduces them to the rigors and culture of academic research and/or professional practice. Summer research fellowships also provide faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and community organizations with the opportunity to mentor young scholars through meaningful, relevant, independent research projects. An annual gift of \$300,000 to \$350,000 would generate research fellowship support for a minimum of 50 to 60 students each summer.

Interdisciplinary Research Projects / Faculty Mini-Grants Program **\$100,000**

The UM's Life Sciences Initiative, along with other emerging areas of research in the social sciences and humanities, require LSA students to develop a strong understanding of multidisciplinary analysis and problem-solving early in their academic careers. In addition to seminars and course clusters, interdisciplinary research projects give students a solid framework for solving problems, answering basic and

applied research questions, and understanding societal and global issues. Through these projects, LSA students learn to work collaboratively, are often exposed to new technologies, gain skills in analyzing primary source material, develop the ability to evaluate problems from different disciplinary perspectives, and are introduced to emerging fields of research. An annual gift of \$100,000 per year would support eight to 10 projects and faculty mini-grants.

Travel Grants **\$50,000 to \$75,000**

Many students who have worked with faculty on UROP projects have presented their research findings at national and international professional meetings. These events are often life-changing experiences. In the case of women and students of color especially, making a major presentation is often a key factor in the decision to attend graduate or professional school. Expendable gifts ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000 will fund travel grants for 50 to 60 undergraduates each year.

Faculty Research Mentor Awards **\$25,000 to \$50,000**

Because UROP is a unique form of undergraduate teaching, it is important to acknowledge the important role faculty mentors play in the development of young scholars. Similar to teaching awards, funds to recognize faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students will generate visibility for the program and serve as an incentive, attracting UROP mentors. Annual gifts of \$25,000 to \$50,000 will fund five to 10 Research Mentor Awards.

Undergraduate Research Grants **\$50,000 to \$75,000**

This program will award research grants to undergraduate students in all academic fields. Students may apply individually or in a group, may pursue traditional disciplinary research or interdisciplinary research, and may work as part of a larger research project or pursue independent research. Grants will be awarded competitively, based on proposals submitted by the applicants. In addition to the many benefits of the research itself, students will gain skills in project design and proposal writing. Annual gifts of \$50,000 to \$75,000 will enable UROP to meet its goal of offering 50 to 60 Small Undergraduate Research Grants each year.

International Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Option A: Research Travel Grants for
 Students Completing Study Abroad Programs \$50,000

The Office of International Programs (OIP) and UROP are exploring ways to provide research opportunities for students who have completed a study abroad program. Special grants would enable a student to conduct a one- to three-month research project, either in collaboration with a UM faculty member or with an international research scientist. Undergraduates, who would be required to submit a formal research proposal, will engage in scholarship that calls on their language skills, cultural competency, and classroom experiences. For those working with an international faculty mentor, the experience will provide insight into modes of scholarship and applied research within a different cultural context. Each grant, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 dollars, is intended to cover living expenses and include a small stipend. An annual gift of \$50,000 will enable UROP to meet its goal of offering 15 to 20 Research Travel Grants each year.

CONTACT INFO

LSA Development,
Marketing & Communications
College of LSA
500 South State Street, Ste 5000
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1382
P.734.615.6333
F.734.647.3061
www.lsa.umich.edu

UROP website:
www.lsa.umich.edu/urop

Option B: International Research
Opportunity Program (IROP)

\$60,000

The International Research Opportunity Program (IROP), now in the planning stages, will be modeled after a similar program at the University of New Hampshire. IROP will provide funds and administrative support for undergraduates to conduct research in a foreign country during the summer of their junior year. Students will work closely with a faculty mentor to identify a research topic and establish a relationship with a research mentor abroad. Following preparation during their junior year (including extensive language training), students will spend nine weeks at a foreign research facility pursuing their research under the guidance of faculty mentors. The IROP experience will culminate during the senior year, when students share their research findings and cultural experiences with the campus community. An expendable gift of \$60,000 will provide \$3,000 in travel-and-research stipends for 15 to 20 students for one academic year.

All donors will be eligible for Presidential Society Recognition opportunities, including the President's Club (\$15,000), the Tappan Society (\$50,000) and the Hutchins Society (\$100,000).