2024-2025 Climate Change Project Awards
Request for Proposals (RFP)

Description:

The Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) Office is pleased to announce the availability of grants for undergraduate research and creative activity projects focused on climate change themes. This grant opportunity is open to all undergraduate students who are interested in conducting scholarly work on various aspects of climate change, including but not limited to climate science, climate policy, visual or written communication of climate issues, and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. We encourage interdisciplinary projects.

- The funding limit for this RFP is $5,000.
- Applicants may apply as an individual or as a group.
- Funds may be used towards an undergraduate student fellowship, undergraduate student tuition (up to 4 credits for a course related to the project), travel to a fieldwork location, supplies, or services.
- Awarded projects must complete proposed work between mid-October 2024 and June 30, 2025.
- Funds must be spent by June 1, 2025 to meet fiscal year deadlines.
- Applications will open July 15, 2024, and close September 8, 2024, at 11:59pm.

To apply for this award, please submit your proposal by the deadline of September 8, 2024, by 11:59pm via the online application link located on the Climate Change Project Award page. If you have any questions, please contact the URSA Office at uaf-ursa@alaska.edu, 907-450-8772.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and supporting your ideas on ways to address climate change themes.

Student Eligibility:
- Degree-seeking UAF undergraduate students (working toward an Occupational Endorsement, Certificate, Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree) of any year of study, any discipline and any UAF campus are eligible to apply.
- Students must be registered for at least 3 credits during both the Fall and Spring semester of the award term.
- Cumulative GPA of 2.3 or better (students on academic probation are not eligible).
- Students that have graduated are not eligible to participate.
- Students must have a confirmed mentor (faculty, staff, researchers, or graduate students) for their project.
- Applicants may only submit one proposal for each request for proposal (RFP).
- Students MAY NOT receive funding from URSA and another source (such as BlaST, INBRE, URISE, etc.) during the same semester. This is to allow the maximum number of students to receive funding during a given term.

Criteria For Selection:

Award selections will be based on:

1) Written quality of the proposal and quality of the work plan.

2) Intellectual merit and scholarly/creative contribution of the project and its potential outcomes. 3) Student learning outcomes articulated in the proposal.

4) Adequate involvement of an approved mentor as demonstrated in a mentoring plan.

5) Feasibility of completion within the given timeline. Selections will be made by the URSA Review Panel and the URSA Director.

Reviewers are from all disciplines - be sure to write for a general audience! Look on the URSA website under "Award Information" for more details on review processes and scoring criteria. The online application form will not allow saving. Please complete your application in another document and copy/paste when you are ready to submit.

1. Applicant Information
    a. Name
    b. UA ID
    c. UA Email
    d. Student Applicant and Additional Group Member Information: Current Year of Study, Degree Type, Major, Anticipated Graduation Date, GPA

2. Mentor Information
    a. Mentor Name
    b. Mentor Email
    c. Mentor's UAF-affiliation (Faculty, Researcher/Postdoc, Staff, Graduate Student)
    d. Department related to the award.
    e. Will you have another mentor for your project?
        i. If yes, please include their name, email, and UAF-affiliation
    f. I acknowledge that my Mentor(s) listed will be required to complete an "URSA Mentor Confirmation Form" prior to the application deadline to be eligible for review.

3. Project Information
    a. Project Title
    b. Abbreviated Project Description (50 words or less)
        i. This will be used for public announcements if awarded.
    c. Project Description (300 words)
        i. Provide a detailed description of your proposed project, including the research question or climate issue being addressed, methodology, and objectives.
    d. Relevance to Climate Change (300 words)
        i. Explain how your project will contribute to understanding, communicating, or addressing climate change issues.
    e. Qualifications (300 words)

      i.   Provide information on your qualifications, including relevant coursework, research experience, creative activity experience, and any relevant extracurricular activities.

   f. Mentoring Plan (200 words)
      i.   Describe your mentor(s)'s role and/or participation in the project. Please include information related to the frequency and objectives of meetings between yourself and your mentor.

   g. Deliverables (300 words)
      i.   Explain what deliverables you plan to produce as a result of your project, such as a research paper, artwork, a presentation, or other tangible outcomes.

   h. Project Training and Approvals
      i.   Some, but not all, projects involve special training and/or approvals. Please check all that apply.
            1. research involving human participants, use of vertebrates, use of radiation/lasers/ significant chemical hazards; equipment training needed; no approvals or training needed.
      ii.   If yes, please provide your appropriate approval number (IACUC, IRB, IBC)
      iii.   If yes, please describe what training will be needed or indicate when a protocol assurance will be submitted (and by whom).

   i. Timeline (File Upload)
      i.   Provide a detailed timeline for the project, including key milestones and anticipated completion date.
      ii.   *Only URSA timeline templates will be accepted. Applications omitting or submitting alternate timelines will not be reviewed.

4. Project Budget
   a. Total Amount Requested (*The maximum award is $5,000.*)
   b. Budget Justification (300 words)
      i.   Provide a detailed budget that outlines the expected expenses associated with the project.
      ii.   Have you applied for and received any other funds for this project?
      iii.   If yes, please list your funding source and the timeframe for these awarded/proposed funds.
   c. Budget (File Upload)
      i.   Reminders:
            1. Be sure the amounts add up to the total amount requested. If a category does not apply to you, put 0 (zero) or N/A.
            2. A student may not hire another person to assist them.
            3. Funds may not be used on the mentor.
            4. URSA does NOT fund conference/competition travel via project awards.
            5. Eligible expenses include undergraduate student fellowship, undergraduate student tuition (up to 4 credits for a course related to the

project), travel to a fieldwork location, consumable project supplies, or contractual services. Equipment, software, subscriptions, and personal gear will not be considered for funding.

      6. *Only URSA budget templates will be accepted. Applications omitting or submitting alternate budgets will not be reviewed.

  d. Budget Quotes Document (File Upload)

      i. Please upload a consolidated PDF of the quotes/receipts for planned purchases and/or services requested in your budget.

  e. Please indicate the Fiscal Office to administer the award (ask your mentor if you are not sure)

      i. College of Business and Security Management (CBSM)

      ii. College of Engineering and Mines (CEM)

      iii. College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS)

      iv. College of Indigenous Studies (CIS)

      v. College of Liberal Arts (CLA)

      vi. College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM)

      vii. Career and Technical College (CTC)

      viii. Geophysical Institute (GI)

      ix. Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB)

      x. School of Education (SOE)

      xi. Rural Campuses

      xii. UA Museum of the North

      xiii. Other:

5. Applicant Agreements:

  a. Applicant(s) found responsible for plagiarizing any part of their application will be disqualified from receiving funding for this proposal and may be disqualified from future funding opportunities.

  b. Eligibility for funding depends on undergraduate student applicants maintaining the GPA and registration minimum and completing previous URSA Awards.

  c. Undergraduate Students MAY NOT receive funding from URSA and another UAF source (such as BLaST, INBRE, URISE) during the same semester.

  d. Students and mentors of an awarded proposal will be expected to meet with the URSA Coordinator for an agreement meeting within one week of the award notice.

      i. This meeting will be used to finalize funding distributions, discuss mentor and student expectations during the award term, and to complete paperwork.

      ii. Group members will be asked to complete a model release form, to sign any applicable award documents, and to provide a photo for the award announcement (individual or group shots).

      iii. Applicant(s) understand that supplies and materials purchased for use in a funded URSA project are the property of the mentor's academic department at UAF. Personal items are not eligible for purchase using this award.

    iv. Failure to complete the project or to spend all project funds by the end of the award term will require applicants to return all remaining funds to URSA within two weeks of the end of the award term.

 6. Notice of Award Reporting
   a. Awarded applicants will be asked to complete the following reporting requirements:
     i. Complete a mid-award blog post/student spotlight for the URSA website (Q&A format)
     ii. Complete an online student reflection form by the end of the award period. Reflection forms may be found on the URSA website under "URSA Resources"> "Forms." Final products to be submitted via the reflection form include:
       1. Two project photos with captions: one photograph of the awarded student or group conducting research and a photo of choice (action shot, project shot, students and mentor, etc.);
       2. Final Deliverable: a research paper, artwork, a presentation, or other tangible outcome from your funded project.
     iii. Awarded students are required to participate in Research Day and Creative Activity Day in April 2025 where they will participate via poster entry or otherwise to share their project outcomes (achieved or anticipated). Failure to participate in Research and Creative Activity Day will impact eligibility for future URSA awards.

Plagiarism Notice: Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including but not limited to representing, either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise, as the student's original work or representing the identifiable but altered ideas, data, or writing of another person as if those ideas, data, or writing were the student's original work. This includes cutting and pasting text from one student's application to another, even if you are both applying for funding. Students found responsible for plagiarism in any part of their application will be disqualified from receiving funding for this proposal and may be disqualified from future URSA funding.