**Department of Biological Sciences**

**2018 Summer Mentor/Mentee Undergraduate Research Fellowship**

**This application is for NEW (“mentee”) undergraduate researchers**

**APPLICATIONS DUE Friday February 16 10 am** to [nkaufman@pitt.edu](mailto:nkaufman@pitt.edu). See application instructions. **Include CV/résumé and undergraduate academic transcript.**

# **First name**       **MI**       **Last name**

# **Email address:**       (your university @pitt.edu account NOT a private account)

**Birthdate:**       **PeopleSoft ID #:**       **Local Phone #:**

**Local Address:**       **Permanent (Home) Address:**

**Current year in school (second term freshman, etc.)**

**Expected Graduation Date (month/year):**

**List majors, minors, and certificates you are considering (note if declared):**

**What activities and commitments outside of the Fellowship do you anticipate during the fellowship program?** During these weeks students must plan not to be out of town (e.g. family vacation), must not be taking classes (including evening and weekend classes, e.g. a Pitt course or MCAT preparation class), and must not have other employment, fellowships, significant volunteering or other commitment. The first two weeks are a workshop doing a joint research project and the following weeks are spent in the individual labs***.***

**List college biology courses you have taken or are enrolled in at the University of Pittsburgh:**

Biology 1       (ex. Biosc 0150) instructor name:       Term taken/taking (ex. sp 2016):

Biology 1 Lab       (ex. Biosc 0050 or 0058) instructor name:      Term taken/taking:

Biology 2       (ex. Biosc 0160) instructor name:      Term:

Biology 2 Lab number       (ex. Biosc 0060, 0067, 0068). Term:

Biology 2 Lab topic (ex. water channels)       section instructor name:

If you have taken upper level biology courses, please list the course title and instructors here:

In a couple of paragraphs, describe one or two of your most favorable experiences from your biology lab courses and how they impact your interest in science research:

If you have **not taken biology labs at Pitt**, please describe, in a couple of paragraphs, your most recent biology course experiences, including labs and how these experiences impact your interest in research:

**List three scientific questions from any of your biology courses that most interest you and impact the research areas you may want to explore in our department:**

Ex. How does…? Why does…?

1.

2.

3.

**Keeping in mind your list of interesting scientific questions,** search the research descriptions of Faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at <http://www.biology.pitt.edu/research> (view profiles of faculty)Under different broad research topics, click on individual faculty members and read the faculty research descriptions to choose ones that best fit your current interests.Or look up some of these faculty research papers in PubMed <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>.

You should also look for labs that fit your interests at the Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium and talk with students in research labs.

Based on these findings, **list four research faculty in whose laboratories in the Department of Biological Sciences you would *most* be interested in doing research (e.g. Dr. Karen Arndt).** *(If you are already matched in a Department of Biological Sciences lab, you may skip this and move to question “2”).*

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Explain your interest in the topics or scientific questions and the labs you listed on the previous page.** Look for a common element in your interests and tell us why this scientific are interests you.

What do you think an undergraduate researcher might do in these labs? What techniques might you use?

Hint: To give a more detailed, thorough answer you may want to look up some research articles authored by the faculty researcher under the “publications” section for each faculty member.

A lot of research involves careful and sometimes creative work. **What do you like to make or build as a hobby or pastime (cooking, gardening, woodworking, etc.)? How do you approach a new project? What challenges have you faced in this work, and how did you deal with the challenges?**

**What do you think undergraduate research is really like? What challenges would you face in lab research and how might you work through them? If you are already in a lab or research lab course, discuss the challenges you may already have confronted.** Hint: Talk with one or more Pitt students who do undergraduate research about their experiences. List anyone you talked with and the lab they work in and describe their experiences below.

What do you envision doing after **graduating from Pitt**, or what options are you considering? How would participating in this summer research program support these plans or help you explore these choices?

Difficult, big, important research questions are often tackled by groups of people working together. Studies show that diverse groups composed of people with different experiences, skills, and social or cultural backgrounds often solve problems better and more creatively than homogenous groups. However working in diverse groups with people from different backgrounds often has its own challenges.

Describe a situation outside of coursework in which you worked with a group people you consider different from yourself. Describe the group’s diversity. What did you bring to the group in terms of your own diverse background? What did you take away from your experience that you might apply to helping a lab research group that was not working together well?

**Please provide demographic information for reporting to our funding agencies.**

**Are you eligible to apply for work-study funding?** Y N

**I identify my cultural ethnicity as…. (check all that apply):**

White/Caucasian (not of Hispanic origin) Black/African/African American

Asian Native Pacific Islander Hispanic

Alaskan Native Native American/American Indian

Other  (please specify)

**I identify my gender as…**

**If you have questions, please contact Dr. Nancy Kaufmann at** [nkaufman@pitt.edu](mailto:nkaufman@pitt.edu).

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**\*\*\*\*\*Supplement: For “new” researchers already matched into a research position in the**

**Department of Biological Sciences\*\*\*\*\*\***

1. **Laboratory in which you will research (e.g. Dr. Karen Arndt):**
2. **How did you find out about this lab (e.g. from a friend, web, class, etc)?**
3. **How long have you worked in this laboratory and in what capacity(ies)?**

In the space below, please explain why you became interested in this specific lab. If you already have a project, describe the scientific questions you are tackling and/or the hypotheses driving this work. What approach(es) are you going to take to address these? *Please make sure that your faculty sponsor submits a Faculty Application on your behalf.*