

IR Research Scholars application guide

International Relations Program | Tufts University | Cabot 605 | 617-627-2776 | <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir>

Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 5pm (see p. 3 for required documents)

- Email completed application to internationalrelations@tufts.edu.
- Letters of recommendation may be submitted in print to the International Relations Program Office (Cabot 605) or via email at internationalrelations@tufts.edu. Official transcripts should be submitted to the International Relations Program Office.

The IR Research Scholars Award supports original, high-quality undergraduate international research. The award consists of financial support and faculty mentorship for intensive summer research work. This competitive program is aimed at IR majors (sophomore standing and above) who anticipate producing an upper-level research paper in their senior year.

To be used towards an IR senior thesis, directed research, conference submission or external essay competition, such as a Fulbright Scholarship, the scholarship will support a minimum of eight weeks of IR core faculty-mentored summer research for the gathering of materials and data. Awards will be granted to both students and faculty for IR core faculty-mentored international research and/or collaborative international research. The program's objective is to support the development of strong research skills critical to professional or academic goals.

Grants to students will be available based on demonstrated need outlined in the research prospectus and budget statement. Student grants, to cover costs related to full-time research, range between \$1,000 and \$4,000 for the IR Research Scholarship. Faculty grants are set at \$1,000.

Past International Relations Research Scholars

2009-2010

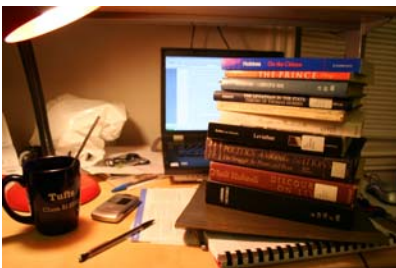
- Aspen Webster – Therapeutic Abortion Policy in Chile
- Andy O’Laughlin – Finding Justice: Latin American Judicial Reform

2008-2009

- Jessica Bidgood - Moral and Political Implications of Shared Sovereignty
- Marla Spivack - Evaluating the Efficacy of NGO HIV Outreach Education in Kenyan Secondary Schools
- Phoenix Tso - Langi Women’s Perspectives on War-Related Reconciliation

2007-2008

- Rachel Bergenfield - From Emergency Relief to Development: IGO/NGO Transition and Local Government Capacity-Building in Post Conflict Northern Uganda
- Carter Koppelman - Community Organizations and Social Problems in the Slums of Santiago and Rio de Janeiro
- Zach Witlin - The Philosophical Roots and Development of Realism



Zach Witlin researched Realist theory under the mentorship of Professor Ioannis Evrigenis



Rachel Bergenfield conducting interviews in Northern Uganda.



Ben Gabin participating in a traditional Andean ritual of blessing and peace.

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Program Components

Residency

IR Research Scholars will be required to reside at their research location(s) for a minimum of eight weeks to ensure continued intensive research toward capstone written work(s) in their senior year. The residences may be located on the Tufts campus, within the U.S. or abroad, or a combination of the three. The location(s) of the residency must reflect the availability of resources for the specific topic and research question(s) of the student.

Faculty Mentorship

A joint commitment between faculty and students during the research process is a core component of the IR Research Scholars Program. This partnership may occur through active faculty mentorship and/or faculty-student collaboration. Faculty Mentors will guide and monitor the design and progress of the project and serve as a key resource for the IR Scholars. Active mentorship involves developing a relationship with a student by way of frequent contact, sharing of knowledge and resources, and timely feedback and assessment.

To apply for the IR Research Scholars Program, students will need the support of an IR core faculty member to serve as the Faculty Mentor. Jointly, they will develop and submit the application proposal that outlines the responsibilities and goals for both the Research Scholar and Faculty Mentor. This proposal must include a timeline and milestones for the summer international research project and a clear outline of the nature and frequency of contacts between student and faculty mentor.

Once selected, in the spring semester Research Scholars and Faculty Mentors will work together to refine intended objectives for the design and implementation of the summer research work. Such objectives may include: a literature review, further identification of untapped primary sources, discussion of research methodology and/or revision of research questions.

Financial Support

Grants to students will be available based on demonstrated need outlined in the research prospectus and budget statement. Student grants, to cover costs related to full-time research, range between \$1,000 and \$4,000 for the IR Research Scholarship. Faculty grants are set at \$1,000.

Examples of fundable research costs include access fees for libraries and archives, photocopying or electronic reproduction of source material, limited payment of research subjects, and research-related supplies. Travel, local transportation, lodging and room and board at research locations would also be appropriate. Costs for “durable goods,” such as books, computer hardware and software and binding of theses would not normally be considered appropriate expenditures, nor would payment of a salary.

Notification and Forfeiture of Award

All applicants and their faculty mentors will be notified by April 1. If for any reason a Research Scholar or Faculty Mentor is unable to carry out the research project approved by the IR Scholars Program Committee, s/he will be expected to forfeit the financial grant and return any used funding.

Post-Research Program Requirements

As a participant in the IR Research Scholars Program, you will be required to complete the following activities:

- Submit a summary of expenses and receipts- DUE SEPTEMBER 15
- Complete a survey about the IR Research Scholars Program that includes a written report on the results of the summer’s work (5 pages)- DUE SEPTEMBER 15
- Present your research at the annual Tufts Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium in the Spring- APRIL
- Support the IR Research Scholars Program by advising prospective scholars and mentors
- Actively participate in the International Research Network sponsored by the International Relations Program

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A completed application consists of the following 7 items:

Download from <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/researchOppScholars.htm>:

- 1) **Cover Sheet**
- 2) **Budget Statement**
 - A summary of the project's total anticipated cost, including costs for room and board, arrangements, travel and local transportation, library/archive access, photocopying and electronic reproductions, and other expected sources of income to support summer research. Students should consult their potential faculty advisor for help with this.
- 3) **IR Faculty-Mentor Recommendation** (1 page maximum, see enclosed): Written by the proposed faculty-mentor.
- 4) **Letter of Recommendation** (1 page maximum, see enclosed): To be completed by person other than proposed faculty mentor.

Other required documents:

- 5) **Research Prospectus (2 pages maximum) – developed by both the student and faculty member outlining:**
 - A research question or line of inquiry and an initial theory as to how this question will be answered
 - A brief summary of existing literature on the subject, including why this research question has developed and is significant
 - Address how your research will enhance the current body of literature on this topic
 - A tentative list of source materials, primary and secondary, to be consulted over the summer
 - A statement of previous undergraduate research experience, including research conducted in classroom and experiential settings such as research assistance positions or internships
 - ***Research proposals including human subject research are subject to Institutional Research Board approval. See website for more details, <http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/IRB/>.
- 6) **Project Outline (1 page maximum):**
 - A plan that provides a timeframe of the summer project (including chosen location(s) of work and their relevance to the research), proposed frequency and type of faculty/student collaboration (including methods of assessment). This plan should include the following points:
 - Relationship between proposed project and senior year research objectives
 - Proposed methods to ensure communication and interaction between student and faculty mentor
 - Availability of linking technology between student and faculty mentor locations
 - Potential non-research related “outside” activities (e.g. part-time work) student may have during summer
- 7) **Official Transcript(s):** For all undergraduate academic work, including non-Tufts coursework.