Edwin A. Weiller
Summer Science Fellowship

About the Award
The Edwin A. Weiller Summer Science Fellowship provides support for undergraduate students pursuing summer research in Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physics and/or Environmental Sciences under the supervision of a Clark faculty member. **The amount of the award is $5,000.**

Application deadline
Midnight on March 15, 2022. Apply through the application portal on the [Opportunity Funding Office web page](#). For application instructions, see below. Research positions must be secured before you apply.

Who is Eligible?
The following are general guidelines for this opportunity:

- Students must participate in summer research in one or more of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physics, and/or Environmental Sciences. All projects must be in the natural and physical sciences. Environmental science projects must be in a biological, natural, or physical science area (field or lab work, including computational); policy or social science projects are not eligible. Students pursuing research in Math and/or Computer Science may also apply for support if their proposed research has a strong nexus with one or more of the natural science fields listed above.
- Research projects must be under the supervision of a Clark faculty member.
- Students must be returning to Clark University as a full-time undergraduate student in the fall semester following the Fellowship.

Criteria for Selection
The selection criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- The quality of the opportunity.
- The quality of the written proposal: Is it well written? Does it include all required pieces?
- The value and clear connection of the experience to future career goals.

If You Are Awarded: Award Requirements
- Attend a Know Before You Go session (date TBD, late April or May 2022)
- Attend weekly Summer Seminar sessions and complete all assigned seminar asynchronous and synchronous work (TBD)
- At the end of the summer, submit a reflection paper, PowerPoint overview of your work, and of a note of thanks for University review, to be submitted to the Weiller donor party.
- Participate in Fall Fest (or, if you will be studying abroad in the fall following your research project, you may defer until Academic Spree of the same academic year).

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How to Apply

Applications will only be collected through the application portal on the Clark University website: https://www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding.

1. Apply to and secure the research position.
2. Recommended: attend a funding information session and/or funding advising session.
3. Have your résumé reviewed by the Career Lab.
4. Have your proposal reviewed by the Writing Center.
5. Submit your application and **application narrative** (described below) through the portal. Prepare to respond to the following in the Centralized Application Portal:
   - Your contact information
   - Emergency contact information
   - Major/minor/Year of graduation/GPA/Probation status
   - Resume
   - PDF of your unofficial transcript accessible on the CU WEB portal through the Student Record tab
   - Assumption of Risk and Liability Waiver
   - Abstract (150 words) – describing research project
   - Contact information of faculty supervisor for the project
   - Letter of support from faculty supervisor (upload)

Application Narrative

This section of the application should be in one document, saved as a pdf. There is a location to upload this document in the application portal. Be sure to save it according to the instructions (please use your first initial, last name, and name of document). **The entire document should be 3-4 pages.** Below is a suggested format. Note that it follows the structure of an abstract, with elaboration on each sentence.

1. **Introduction -** Open with a description of what you'll be doing for your research project. State the problem, puzzle, or project goal.
2. **Approach to your project -** Provide a description of how you'll complete your project.
   - Discuss your benchmarks and processes in detail as best you can.
   - Describe your deliverable, or final product(s) for the project.
3. *Timeline and benchmarks* – This section should be approximately one half-page, presented in table format.
   - What are the benchmarks for the project?
   - What is your timeline for meeting these benchmarks?
4. **Project and Housing Budget** – Discuss personal and research expenses needed for the summer, including and above the award amount of $5,000. A detailed table is sufficient for this section. Expense can include, but are not limited to:

- Supplies and materials
- Travel for field research
- Attendance at a relevant professional conference
- Expected housing costs, and where you plan to live (on campus, in Worcester, or at a field site)
- Personal expenses such as food, internet, utilities, etc.

5. **Relevance to career goals –** discuss how this research will impact your future career goals.
   - Describe your career goals in the sciences.
   - Describe how this project will support or propel you toward those goals.

Letter of Support from Faculty Sponsor

Your application should include a brief letter of support from your faculty sponsor for the project as a separate document. Your faculty should speak to the following:

- Confirm the nature of the research project, and your specific role in it.
- Endorse your ability to do the work. What makes you qualified? What strengths do you bring to the project?
- Briefly describe the support they intend to offer you to ensure success in the project. Will this include training? Weekly meetings? Observation and feedback? Supplies and resources? Etc.
- Confirm that they intend to sponsor you for a poster and/or presentation for Fall Fest (or Academic Spree, if you are off-campus in the fall).

After You Apply

Selection Process & Timeline

Review committees - comprising of faculty members from each STEM department - evaluate applications. Recommendations are sent to the Career Connections Center, who make the final selection across all STEM departments. All students who apply will be notified in writing of the decision by early April.

Award Disbursement

Funds are typically disbursed in late May. It is possible, however, that you may not receive the award until early June, in which case you should plan accordingly to cover your expenses until then. **You will need to set up direct deposit with Student Accounts in order to receive your award.** Note that this authorization is separate from Payroll Direct Deposit. If you receive funding we will send you detailed instructions in your award letter to set up your direct deposit.

If you have accepted another source of funding, you must notify cservices@clarku.edu immediately since this will affect the amount of funding you are eligible to receive.

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Tax Information

Domestic Students: No taxes are withdrawn pre-disbursement; however, you will be expected to claim this award on your annual taxes and this may impact your taxes due at that time. Please consult an accountant for more detail.

International students: International students, defined as students studying at Clark on a visa, will have some taxes deducted from their funding amount prior to receiving the funding; this means that the amount you receive will be less that the total award. The amount deducted depends on which country you are from, and the tax treaty that the US has with that country. Generally, expect about 12-15% of your total award withdrawn. Please see the Clark payroll office with specific questions about your tax amount.