

[IRENE EVERS' COMPETITIVE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS](#)¹

The College of Forestry and Conservation is pleased to issue a call for proposals for the Irene Evers' Competitive Undergraduate Research Scholarships (IECURS). To be eligible for an IECURS, a student must be an undergraduate of at least sophomore standing and must be enrolled in a degree program in the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana this Spring and for the Fall semester following the award. The applicant must possess a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to scholarships@cfc.umt.edu and will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday March 18, 2016. Awards will be announced by the CFC Awards Banquet. This year we anticipate being able to fund up to 5-6 research scholarship awards.

Students should submit the following electronically:

(combine items 1-2 into a single MS Word file with a file name of 'studentlastname Irene Evers proposal.docx'; submit item 3 as an Excel Spreadsheet with a file name of 'studentlastname Irene Evers budget.xlsx')

- 1) Project proposal written by the student and reviewed/approved by the faculty advisor (no more than 5 pages, single-spaced, times new roman size 12 or equivalent font) consisting of:
 - Introduction, justification, and statement of purpose for the project
 - Brief literature review
 - Statement of goals, research questions, and/or hypotheses
 - Research design & methods
 - Appendices (these do not count against the page limit):
 - Bibliography
 - Any supporting documentation that cannot readily be incorporated in a proposal narrative (e.g., banding permits, consent forms, interview guide, questionnaire, etc.)
 - Proposed Timeline for project completion
 - A statement of whether the requested funds (see item 3) will be sufficient to complete the project. If it is not, add a statement explaining where the remaining funds required for project completion will come from.
- 2) A personal statement (not to exceed one page) identifying the how the research will contribute to your learning and professional development and identifies any prior class/work experience that may provide relevant background for assessing your ability and commitment to completing the proposed research. If the research is part of a larger, collaborative project with a faculty member, this statement should discuss your role in the design of the research for the Irene Evers proposal and your responsibilities implementing the proposed research.
- 3) Submit the proposed budget as an excel spreadsheet (a [sample excel budget file](#)² is posted at the scholarships website listed above)
 - The budget should identify amount of the student stipend, supplies, travel, etc. requested from the Irene Evers Scholarship the completion of the project
 - Maximum allowable budget is \$3000.

¹ The hyperlink is: <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/resources/scholarships/default.php>

² The hyperlink is: <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/resources/files/scholarships/Irene-Evers-Budget-Form.xlsx>

- Up to \$2500 of the budget can be for a student stipend (Note: The stipend is paid as 2 lump sums. Half the stipend is paid in a lump sum payment at the beginning of the project, the other half is available in a lump sum *when the final report is approved by the faculty project advisor.*)
- Other project costs can be reimbursed as they occur.

Faculty Advisors should submit the following electronically:

(in a single MS Word file with a file name of 'studentlastname IECURS facultylastname.docx')

1) One page letter of support that:

- Indicates the faculty advisor approves the research proposal and speaks to the, quality, feasibility, and potential for learning and professional development the project offers
- States the faculty advisor is committed to supervising the student for the duration of the project
- Discusses how the faculty advisor anticipates interacting with the student during the course of the project
- Commits to ensuring the student understands and gets any training needed to meet UM's requirements for the [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#)³
- Discusses the relationship, if any, to larger research projects the faculty member has. Note: there is no requirement that the undergraduate project be linked to a larger faculty or graduate project. But if the proposal is linked to a larger project, the student applicant should have the ability to design, implement, and manage the budget for a discreet element of the project in a way that allows her/him to learn and grow in the manner expected from a student thesis (as opposed to the research being primarily defined and managed by a principal investigator or lab manager).

Within 1 year of the award, the student must submit a final report to their faculty advisor who will approve it and send it on to the Associate Dean. When the final project report is approved, the student may request \$500.00 of additional funding for travel to a conference to present results. The conference must occur within 1 year of the successful completion of the final project report and the request must include an endorsement by the faculty advisor.

Note about the College of Forestry and Conservation's posting of proposals and final reports:

- 1) The College is developing an electronic database of Irene Evers Projects similar to Mansfield Library's EDTP system for graduate theses. Final project reports will be included as pdf's in this database.
- 2) The College also has a goal of developing a portfolio of sample proposals that future applicants can review as examples. Some of the accepted proposals may be posted for that purpose.

A student who has previously been awarded an IECURS may apply for another IECURS if the prior project is completed and the final project report accepted.

³ The hyperlink is: <http://www.umt.edu/research/compliance/RCR/default.php>