**Oberlin Summer Research Institute Fellowship**

**2025 Application**

**Due Friday, February 21st, 2025 by 11:59 pm**

The Oberlin Summer Research Institute Fellowship (OSRI) seeks to offer an invaluable opportunity for students to both deepen their academic knowledge and explore areas of study not offered through the formal curriculum. OSRI aims to facilitate the intellectual and professional development of accepted students to prepare them to earn PhDs or other advanced degrees. Participation in OSRI will help to prepare students for careers in higher education or in professional fields such as law or medicine. The program is open to students in all research fields, disciplines, and majors who meet the requirements for eligibility.

# Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

* Non-graduating Oberlin College student who were enrolled during the 2024-2025 academic year
* Able to undertake full-time research and programming on campus June 2nd to July 24th, 2025
* No major commitments from June 2nd to July 24th, 2025 (e.g. classes, other employment, etc.)
* Good academic standing and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher
* Have not previously participated in two summers of an Oberlin College Research Fellowship, Oberlin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, or an OSRI Fellowship

*There is no citizenship requirement for OSRI, and undocumented students are encouraged to apply.*

# 2025 Program Components

* Eight weeks of mentored research from June 2nd to July 24th, 2025
  + Eligibility to reapply for an additional summer
* Two or more weekly workshops through Oberlin Summer Research Institute (OSRI) to promote research skills and personal development
* Completion of assignments, research presentation, and digital portfolio
* On-campus housing is included in all OSRI Fellowship awards
* Community activities located throughout Northeast Ohio

# Award

* Student stipend: $3,500 and a tax-free allocation for housing valued at over $1,000 available to all OSRI students for on-campus housing, only.
* Additional funds may be awarded in the form of: need-based scholarship funds, small awards to assist with research supplies ($200 maximum), peer mentor and/or OSRI support stipend.
* Mentor stipend: $2,000 (1st student), $750 (2nd student), $500 (3rd student)
* Please note that mentors receiving stipends from other sources for summer work are not eligible for OSRI mentor stipends due to grant regulations.

# Program Requirements

* 8 weeks of full-time research and programming June 2nd to July 24th, 2025
* No major commitments from June 2nd to July 24th, 2025 (e.g. classes, other employment, etc.)
* In residence in Oberlin
* Participation in OSRI workshops and community events
  + Research skills, professional development, and peer review workshops
  + Required attendance in planned community events
* All OSRI Fellows must be closely mentored by an Oberlin faculty member
* IRB or IACUC approval (if applicable) prior to data collection; applications should be submitted by May 8th, 2025

# Application Procedure and Award Selection

The complete application should be submitted as a single PDF document (excluding reference forms) by 11:59pm on **February 21st, 2025** to the [Google Form found here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbpgRqAyJEgiBcqLExC5lr89Tw1sCR6RhTmLliZcNlz6OOzw/viewform?usp=sf_link). Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. A complete application includes the following:

☐ Signed and completed application cover page

☐ Research proposal: completed by the student under the guidance of their mentor

☐ Personal statement: completed by the student

☐ Mentoring plan: completed collaboratively by the student and mentor

☐ Unofficial transcript

☐ Two recommendations completed by Oberlin faculty who can speak to the applicant’s potential for research or advanced academic work

☐ If you are applying to work as part of a research team on a single project, we ask that you list all team members and share a brief paragraph about how you will share project responsibilities

The General Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Research will review all completed applications submitted by the deadline. Please keep in mind that individuals on the selection committee come from a diverse array of academic backgrounds. Thus, your application should be targeted to a general academic audience and provide enough background information for us to evaluate your complete proposal. Applicants will be notified by April on the status of their application. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

* Strength of the research project proposed by the student
* Demonstrated promise for completing a long-term, intensive research project
* Alignment with the goals of OSRI
* Ability to contribute to an inclusive and supportive community of undergraduate researchers

## Application Cover Page

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal Information:**  Name: Enter text | Pronouns: Enter text | Date of birth: Enter text |
| T#: Enter text | Graduation Year: Enter text | GPA: Enter text |
| Major(s):  Enter text |  | Minor(s)/Concentration(s):  Enter text |
| **Contact Information:**  Email: Enter text | Cell #: Enter text | Obie ID: Enter text |
| Permanent Address: Enter text |  |  |
| City, State: Enter text | Zip Code: Enter text | Country: Enter text |

**Project**

Please select all that apply to your project:

Qualitative research methods  Quantitative research methods  Community-based

Humanities/Arts discipline  Social Science discipline  STEM discipline

Faculty-led -or-  Student-led  Lab/Group Project -or-  Individual Project

**Scholarships:**

Please check all OSRI Scholarships for which you are applying. Funds are limited and additional materials may be required to apply. Admission to OSRI does not guarantee receipt of Scholarships.

**Financial Need-Based Scholarship:** I grant consent for OUR to confirm my eligibility with Financial Aid (amount awarded is determined by demonstrated need).

**Research Funds:** I will submit a budget proposal for no more than $200 and a brief narrative describing the significance of these funds to my research. *\*Additional requirements can be found in the* [*OSRI Application Google form*](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbpgRqAyJEgiBcqLExC5lr89Tw1sCR6RhTmLliZcNlz6OOzw/viewform?usp=sf_link)*.*

**Peer Mentor/OSRI Support ($200):** I agree to submit a paragraph statement describing my interest and qualifications for this role. *\*An interview may be required.*

**Internship+:**

Rising seniors selected for OSRI Fellowships will automatically receive Internship+ funding to support their summer research experience. Funds will be administered through OUR and distributed to support their enrollment and OSRI stipend. Students do not need to complete any additional steps to apply for Internship+ funding. Rising sophomores may opt into or out of this program:

Yes - I understand and consent to using Intership+ funding to support my OSRI Fellowship

I am a rising junior and consent to using Intership+ funding to support my OSRI Fellowship

I am a rising junior and would like to request an exemption from using my Internship+ funds to support my OSRI Fellowship. I have provided a rationale for this request below. I understand that acceptance into the program may be contingent upon use of these funds

I am a rising sophomore and will **opt in** to use my Internship+ funds to support my OSRI Fellowship

I am a rising sophomore and would like to **opt out** of using Internship+ funds to support my OSRI Fellowship

**Project Information:**

Project Title:

Enter text

Does this project require regulatory approval? If yes, have you received approval?

IRB  IACUC  No  Yes  No, I will submit by May 8th

**Research Mentor’s Information:**

Mentor: Enter text Mentor’s Department: Enter text

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mentor’s Email: Enter text | Mentor’s Phone Ext: Enter text |

**Academic References’ Contact Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st Reference Name: Enter text | Email: Enter text |
| 2nd Reference Name: Enter text | Email: Enter text |

**Student’s Signature:**

I affirm that all information submitted through this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge

I affirm that all the information provided on this application resulted from my own work and is not generated or replicated from another source

If I am awarded an OSRI Fellowship:

I will engage in full time research during the program (June 2nd to July 24th, 2025)

I agree to conduct my research with the highest ethical standards

I agree to be in residence at Oberlin College for the eight-week program

I agree that I will not commit to any other major obligations such as employment or coursework during the eight-week program (June 2nd to July 24th, 2025)

I agree to attend all required workshops and peer reviews and community events

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: Click or tap here to enter text. | Date: Enter text |

**Mentor’s Signature:**

If my student is awarded an OSRI Fellowship:

I agree to serve as the mentor for the student listed on this application

I understand that I should be available to provide close mentorship to my student (whether in person or remotely, synchronously, asynchronously, or some combination of the above between June 2nd to July 24th, 2025)

I reviewed the OSRI mentor expectations, co-authored the mentorship plan submitted in this proposal with my student, and commit to mentoring my student as outlined in the submitted application. If/when I am traveling, we have agreed upon plans for ensuring continued support and mentorship that are described in the application.

I agree to meet with my mentee in person at least once a week during the program.

I agree to support my mentee and arrange our research schedule to accommodate the required OSRI workshops and events and to work proactively with the OSRI team when accommodations are required.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: Click or tap here to enter text. | Date: Enter text |

# Research Proposal Section

**\*\*\*Completed by the student under the guidance of the mentor\*\*\***

Please respond to **all** the following questions. Responses should be no longer than 250 words for each question.

1. **Background and Literature Review:** Provide a brief introduction to your research project. Please address the following questions: In what research field would you place your proposed research project? What work has already been published in this field? (Please provide the full citation for any references used in this section)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Research Question or Critical Problem:** Discuss your initial research question or critical problem for your proposed project. How does your research question address a gap in knowledge in your field? Why is your research question important to your field and the common good?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Methodology:** Describe the methods that you will use to address your research question. Why are these methods the most appropriate for your research question? Again, you should keep in mind the broad academic backgrounds of individuals on the selection committee and ensure that they understand what your research would involve and how your methods would allow you to address your research question.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Ethics Statement:** Discuss any ethical issues raised by your research question or methodology. Please detail the ethical issue and include your process to mitigate these issues. (Required if your project requires IRB OR IACUC approval; suggested if your research raises ethical issues even if it does not require IRB or IACUC approval.)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. If appropriate to your field, discuss your **anticipated findings and/or hypotheses:** Based on the information presented in your background and literature review, what do you expect to find from your research? Why do you expect these findings? How will your findings address your research question?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Provide **a timeline and/or strategic plan** for how you will complete your research project over the course of eight weeks. If you plan to continue working on your research project during the academic year, you may include goals for the academic year in your timeline/strategic plan.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Will you require **funding** for supplies, participant fees, travel, etc. to complete your OSRI project? If yes, please detail and justify the funding you will require. (Funding is limited and may not be awarded. Students may receive a fellowship offer without funding and will be encouraged to seek out alternative research supply funding).

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Personal Statement Section \*\*\*Completed by the student\*\*\***

Please respond to **all** the following questions. Responses should be no longer than 250 words for each question.

1. Why are you interested in conducting academic research? What, in particular, motivates you with your proposed research topic?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What are your academic and career goals? How will your participation in this program help you achieve these goals?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. OSRI offers a community of individuals that will support, offer accountability for, and inspire each other to conduct excellent academic research. How will you contribute and commit to this environment?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. OSRI aims to increase the diversity of academic researchers and promote greater diversity and sense of belonging in a range of student identities in research at Oberlin. How will you promote the goals of OSRI as a participant?

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Mentoring Plan

**\*\*\*Completed by the student and mentor in collaboration\*\*\***

Please respond to **all** the following questions. Responses should be no longer than 250 words for each question.

1. What knowledge and research skills are necessary to complete the proposed research project (e.g. analyzing the literature on the use of African American Vernacular English in 20th century literature, mastering the technique of Western Blotting, learning how to design an appropriate survey, etc.)?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. How will the student acquire the knowledge and research skills mentioned above?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. For students proposing an independent project, why is the chosen mentor best suited to serve as the research mentor for the proposed project?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. For students joining an ongoing collaborative project, how does this project align with your research interests?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. A requirement and key component of OSRI is in-person, hands-on, mentored research. We require that mentor and mentee meet a minimum of once per week. Will the mentor be away from campus during the summer? If so, how long will the mentor be away and how will the student be supported during these absences?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. For students proposing independent projects, please outline how the mentor will support the structure of the project, ensure accountability, and provide training on the methods needed to complete the project.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. For students joining ongoing collaborative projects initially designed by their mentors, describe how the student’s independence will be promoted and what specific role(s) the student will have in the project.

Click or tap here to enter text.