



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2011 HOWELL-CSUPERB RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD PROGRAM

<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-about.shtml>

Important Dates and Information:

RFA Release Date: September 1, 2010

Application Due Date: Monday, October 11, 2010 (5:00 p.m. pacific time)

Award Notification: December, 2010

Maximum Award Amount: \$3,000

Program Description:

The California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) has partnered with the Doris A. Howell Foundation for Women's Health Research (<http://www.howellfoundation.org/>) to fund promising undergraduate student research projects in topics related to women's health. CSUPERB and the Howell Foundation co-fund \$3000 Research Scholar Awards to support CSU undergraduate researchers. Together the Howell Foundation and CSUPERB recognize that research experience is critical to recruiting, training and retaining students interested in careers in women's health. In fact the great majority of Howell-CSUPERB scholars go on to apply successfully for graduate programs and industry jobs.

2011 Howell-CSUPERB Award Review Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed with the following criteria:

- The feasibility, scientific merit, and originality of the research plan
- The appropriateness of the research methods to the question(s) identified
- The applicant's ability to effectively communicate these ideas and his/her interest in or need for the award

- The student's academic and research abilities, as described in the Faculty Sponsor's letter and on the academic transcript
- The Faculty Sponsor's commitment to insuring that the project is accomplished, as demonstrated in the Faculty Sponsor's letter

Review Criteria Notes:

- Successful applications will clearly explain the relevance of or the connection between the biotechnology-related research project proposed and women's health.
- Applicants must provide a general timeline for the project. The project must be completed within 12 months (shorter project timelines are acceptable).
- Successful applications will provide evidence of an effective, collaborative faculty sponsor, or mentor, who will ensure the Howell Scholar's progress. The sponsor should provide assistance and support to the student at all stages of the student's project, including the development of the research plan, timeline, budget, execution of the project, and preparation of final reports. As a result, applicants must submit letters of recommendation from their faculty sponsors with their application package. The proposed faculty sponsor should provide a fair and objective assessment of the student's academic and research abilities in the letter. This letter, along with the faculty member's willingness to participate, is an important element in the evaluation of the applications.

Program Eligibility and Requirements:

- The Howell-CSUPERB Award program is open to any CSU undergraduate student in "good standing" and planning to remain at his or her CSU campus for at least one more semester (the additional semester may be at the graduate level). Applicants must be able to complete the proposed project within one calendar year of the application.
- Any original research topic related to women's health will be considered. This focus does not necessarily exclude general health concerns that affect both sexes, nor is health defined in a strictly biological sense. The range of topics is exceptionally broad

and covers much of the human life sciences. The research project need not be focused upon female subjects or tissues.

- The proposed project must be biotechnology-related. Please note that CSUPERB welcomes and encourages applications from students in all biotechnology-related disciplines, including but not limited to life science, physical science, clinical science, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.
- The proposed project must be original. Literature reviews are not acceptable as the entire project.
- CSUPERB and the Howell Foundation provide funds for *faculty-mentored student research projects* that have not yet begun. These awards may be used to support research activities as part of official school programs, such as honors or senior projects, and the proposed work can be part of a larger project.
- Applicants who have previously received a Howell-CSUPERB Award may not apply for an extension or funding for another project.
- Maximum award amount is \$3000. Applications received proposing budgets in excess of \$3000 will not be considered.
- Applications should use 2011 template forms and include all required sections (available and described in detail at <http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-submission.shtml>). A complete application package consists of all of the following:
 - Signature Page with all signatures
 - The Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar Program Cover Page
 - 100 word Summary of Proposed Project
 - 2-3 page Description of the Project, including figures and references
 - 100 word Explanation of the Project's Relevance to Women's Health
 - 100 word Personal Essay
 - Faculty Sponsor's Letter of Recommendation and Sponsor's Short CV
 - Student's Transcript - An unofficial copy is acceptable.

Budget and Funds Administration:

Maximum award amount is \$3000.

At least half of the Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar award budget must be spent on academic (textbooks, tuition and fees) and living expenses (an honorarium or as a salary, which will have tax obligations) for the student as allowed by campus regulations. The remainder can be budgeted to cover the student's research project-related expenses (supplies, travel related to the project). The student's faculty sponsor supervises the budget. ***Please note that no indirect costs are allowed.*** The Howell-CSUPERB awards will be made to students through their College of Science (or equivalent) office.

Application Instructions:

APPLICATION DEADLINE is Monday, October 11, 2010 (5:00 p.m. pacific time).

Applicants are required to have their Faculty Sponsor electronically submit their completed and signed proposals using the CSUPERB **OARS** system (<http://www.csuperb.org/oars/login.php>). If you have trouble with OARS, you must contact the program office (619-594-2822) before application deadline. The 2011 Howell-CSUPERB application forms and submission instructions are available at the CSUPERB webpage (<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-submission.shtml>).

The CSUPERB program office will evaluate applications for completeness and whether they meet eligibility requirements. Qualified applications will be forwarded to the Howell Foundation for review and selection of award winners. Notification of award is expected in early December so that awardees can start project work in January 2011 and attend the CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 7-8, 2011).

In 2010, 27 applications were received from 13 different CSU campuses and 11 Howell-CSUPERB awards (\$3000) were made to students from nine campuses.

Post-Award Reporting Requirements:

Awardees are required to submit a Final Report within 30 days of project end date using the Howell Report Form available at <http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-about.shtml>.

Reporting helps document the project's progress, gauge the impact of the award, and justify continuation of the program.

Applicants who are accepted to be Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholars will be asked to sign a photograph release form so images can be used in publications.

Howell-CSUPERB Scholars and their mentors have opportunities to present their research at Doris A. Howell Foundation meetings in La Jolla, California. CSUPERB will provide funds to cover necessary travel expenses if invited.

Program Contacts and Addresses:

Submit proposals to and contact for information about application forms:

Eric Nedelman, Ph.D.

Administrative Analyst, CSUPERB

San Diego State University

5500 Campanile Drive, GMCS 601

San Diego, CA 92182-1011

nedelman@sciences.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-1203 or 619-594-2822

Fax: 619-594-5291

For information about this program and RFA:

Rajni Garg, Ph.D.

Director, Grants & Awards, CSUPERB

rgarg@mail.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-1877

Susan Baxter, Ph.D.

Executive Director, CSUPERB

sbaxter@mail.sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-594-2510