

CWU College of the Sciences Undergraduate Research Grants

In the faculty letter written in support of the student's COTS URG proposal, please address the following:

1. The student's academic abilities and promise.
2. The type of mentoring that you will provide the student for the duration of the grant.
3. Information on whether the student is already trained to carry out the project, or whether additional training and mentoring from you (or someone else) is required.
4. Ability of the student to complete this work in the proposed time frame.
5. Plans for publication and/or presentation, including at SOURCE.
6. Please note that the student may request \$ to support materials and equipment that benefit a broader program, but that the items requested must be integral to the project the student is proposing. For example, the student could request funds to purchase a GPS unit that will be used by others, too, but the unit must be required for the project the student plans to carry out.
7. If the student is contributing to a broader body of work, you *may* wish to include some information on that (the intent is to provide the context of the work).
8. Will the student's research be carried out on campus or elsewhere?

Example letter:

Dear COTS Undergraduate Research Grants Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of X's application for College of the Sciences Undergraduate Research Grant. X is majoring in Anthropology and has completed several courses with me, including an upper division course in animal behavior. She has excelled in all of these classes and used one to develop a hypothesis that will be tested in more detail through this project. She plans to study behavioral interactions of adult female macaques and their infants to test whether the mother's stress levels impact on her infant's survival, growth, and behavioral profiles.

X received some preliminary instruction on the collection of behavioral data in her upper- and lower-division courses. For this project, we will meet 1-2 hours per week so I can teach her to use The Observer software (important for behavioral data entry and analysis). We plan for the training phase to be completed within the first five weeks of the quarter, at which point her formal data collection will commence. X will study a free-ranging, habituated population of monkeys in Huangshan, China, a population that various primatologists have studied since 1990. I will be at the site with X during the data collection phase of her project. To date, little research has focused on mother-infant interactions in this species, and X's project will help to fill in that gap in our knowledge. COTS URG funds are requested to cover her airfare.

X plans to present the results of her work at SOURCE. Additionally, her data will contribute to an article she will write with me and several other colleagues, to be submitted to the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Primatology*. I am confident of X's abilities to complete the work described in her proposal during the allotted time.

Sincerely,