

**O'DONNELL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD**  
**Applications due 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May**

The goals of the O'Donnell Undergraduate Research Award are 1) to aid students in developing sustained, high quality research projects in English, and 2) to further develop a research culture among English majors.

This award will support up to \$3000 in stipend or travel funds for a defined research project conducted over the summer by an undergraduate English major at Duquesne. (The amount and number of awards will depend on the number of applications and amount of funding requested, e.g., three \$100 awards, two \$1500 awards, or one \$3000.) To be eligible, a student must be an English major in good standing (a 3.0 average or above in the major) and be enrolled at Duquesne for at least a semester after receiving the award. The project must be completed by midterm of the Fall semester following the grant award. In addition, students will be required to present their work in a public forum organized by the Department of English during the academic year after their research is completed.

Following are some possible items/activities that will be considered for support (this list is not exhaustive):

- Major extension and revision of a research paper or creative writing project begun in an English course at Duquesne
- Costs associated with research travel to archives, library, or a creative writing/literary studies conference
- Accommodation, travel costs, and/or fees for a workshop outside of Duquesne related to literary research

Applications must include the following:

**For Literature or Film concentrations:**

1. A graded copy of an A or A- research paper written in a 300- or 400-level literature or film course, to be revised and extended. (Even if this is an end-of-semester assignment, your professor would be happy to return it to you promptly with comments and a grade; you just need to ask)
2. Project proposal (1-2 pages) that includes
  - a. A DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL PROJECT. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe your thesis and subject.
  - b. RESEARCH GOALS. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the new research areas and/or materials that you hope to explore and incorporate, as well as the specific changes you hope to make.
  - c. RESEARCH PLAN. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe how you plan to find these materials and areas, as well as the primary questions you hope to answer.
3. If applicable, an itemized budget proposal (see example below).
4. Cover sheet with original instructor's and student's signatures (see attached).

**For Writing concentrations:**

1. A graded copy of an A or A- creative writing project written in a 300- or 400-level writing course, to be revised and extended. (Even if this is an end-of-semester assignment, your professor would be happy to return it to you promptly with comments and a grade; you just need to ask)
2. Project proposal (1-2 pages) that includes

- a. A DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL PROJECT. In 1-2 paragraphs, write a synopsis.
  - b. RESEARCH GOALS. In 1-2 paragraphs, explain how you would develop, expand, or revise the original work.
  - c. RESEARCH PLAN. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the activities you hope to engage in order to perform these changes (e.g. workshop, course, scholarly research, interviews, or other) and how these activities will enable you to achieve your writing goals.
3. If applicable, an itemized budget proposal (see example below).
  4. Cover sheet with original instructor's and student's signatures (see attached).

### **EXAMPLES OF AN ITEMIZED BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Include a budget only if you need to travel or registration funds. Thoroughly research travel costs for airfare and accommodation for the best deals possible. Cost and fees should be accurate and up-to-date. All receipts will eventually need to be submitted.

If you would like to conduct your research without traveling, request a stipend and dollar amount on the cover sheet instead (\$1000, \$1500, or \$3000).

#### **Example 1 (Literature or Film concentration)**

Current exchange rate, British Pound Sterling £1 = \$1.53

R/T airfare, Pittsburgh to London	\$752
R/T Coachfare, London to Cambridge	£24 = \$36
7 nights accommodation, London Backpackers Hostel, Ealing @ £30 per night	£210 = \$321
6 nights accommodation, Cambridge Budget Haven @ £24 per night	£144 = \$220
7-day Central London transportation	£49 = \$74
Fees, Shakespeare symposium at Cambridge University, May 20-25	\$500
Fees, Renaissance conference at University of London, May 30-June 6	\$1000
Total	\$2903

#### **Example 2 (Writing concentration)**

Registration costs, Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Aug 10-20, includes room And board	\$2,620
R/T airfare, Pittsburgh to Middlebury, VT	\$150
Total	\$2,770

**O'DONNELL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD COVER SHEET**

Dear Selections Committee:

I have read and graded the work indicated below, which is included in this application.

I believe that this work is worthy of and has the potential to benefit from the opportunities that the O'Donnell Research Award supports. Moreover, this student is fully capable of performing the activities that they have outlined in the project proposal. I agree to meet or correspond with the student at least three times, at the student's initiative: 1) to guide research activities initially, 2) to check progress in the middle of the project, and to 3) evaluate the final work.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Faculty signature)

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Dear selections Committee:

If selected, I will begin my research this summer for the O'Donnell Research Award on \_\_\_\_\_(date). By \_\_\_\_\_ (date), I will have reached the midpoint of my research, meaning I will have reached a substantial point in my research goals, to be defined in accordance with my instructor. By \_\_\_\_\_ (date, latest by FA midterm), I will have completed all research and written a substantial new draft of my project.

I understand that I will present an overview of my project in a 20-minute presentation to be delivered to the English department during the following academic year, and that I am responsible for setting up meetings or initiating correspondence according to the dates above.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature)

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To be filled out by student (check one and fill in amount)

Name and student ID #D00 \_\_\_\_\_

Email address and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of research paper or creative writing project: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Course number, title, and semester: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting travel funds in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total. A budget proposal is attached.

I am requesting a (non-traveling) stipend in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total.

**\*\* PLEASE SUBMIT ALL MATERIALS TO MS. SHAWNTAYE SLEDGE AT [sledges@duq.edu](mailto:sledges@duq.edu) BY 4 PM ON THE SECOND FRIDAY IN MAY.\*\***