

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## 2025 Students Training in Advanced Research (STAR) Program

### Instructions:

All applicants should complete this application in full in coordination with their mentor. A completed application, along with all supporting materials should be sent together as one .pdf as an e-mail attachment addressed to [svmstarprogram@ucdavis.edu](mailto:svmstarprogram@ucdavis.edu) no later than **Friday, February 14, 2025 by 11:59PM PST.**

### Applicant Information:

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CA Resident Yes  No

International student Yes  No

**Answering the questions below is voluntary and greatly appreciated for our reporting efforts.**

**Gender** (that you most closely identify with):  Male  Female  Other/Not Listed Here

### Ethnicity:

White  Asian  Black or African American

American Indian/Alaska Native  Hispanic/Latino

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  Do not wish to provide

**Disability:** Do you have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activity, as described by the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)?

Yes  No  Do not wish to provide

If yes, which of the following categories describes your disability(ies):

Hearing  Visual  Mobility/Orthopedic Impairment  Other

### Mentor Information:

Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Project:

Title of Research Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Species of Research: \_\_\_\_\_

# PART I - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required at the start of STAR summer session. Student must not be on academic probation. Please refer to the [DVM Student Resource Manual](#) (Canvas) for more information.

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate and Other Institutions	Degree	Year	GPA	Subject/Major

**Previous STAR Recipient\***

\*If checked, please see instructions in the Personal Statement section regarding the summary of your previous STAR project activities and results.

**STARS Abroad – Dublin, Ireland\***

\*Check this box if you are applying to the Ireland exchange program. **For the Ireland Exchange program, you must select both a UC Davis and a UC Dublin Mentor.**

**External Summer Research Opportunity (BIVSP, USDA, MIT, etc) \***

\*Check this box if you are applying to one of the external summer research programs **in addition** to the UC Davis STAR Program.

## PART II - REQUIRED INFORMATION, APPLICANT

- A) A progress report must be completed if you have previously been awarded STAR funding.** Include at least one paragraph in the Personal Statement section summarizing your previous STAR project activities and results. Please indicate whether the proposed project is an extension of your previous project or a new and unrelated project.
- B) Provide a Personal Statement, Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Project Plan Significance, Innovation and Approach. (character limits apply – please see Project Details section for limits/requirements).**

## PART III - REQUIRED INFORMATION, FACULTY MENTOR

- A) Write a letter of support** for the applicant.  
The letter of support should detail the mentors' access to facilities and equipment required to accomplish the student's proposed research within the STAR award period. It should also outline your contribution to the development and editing of the student's proposal. The letter of support should not be used as an opportunity to supplement the student's proposal with additional scientific data.
- B) Provide a mentoring plan** for the applicant.  
Please outline your anticipated 10-week timeline for your student's STAR project. Also include a summary of your mentoring plan for the applicant.
- C) Assemble a financial plan** for the applicant that delineates the non-STAR funded component of the applicant's research costs. In some circumstances, a modest amount of supply funds can be requested to support the student's research project. A request for supply funds and justification should be included in your financial plan in the mentor support letter.
- D) List any publications** resulting from past STAR student projects. Include authors, title, source, publication date. It is acceptable to cut and paste from PubMed, SCOPUS or SciVal.

## PART IV – STAR PROJECT DETAILS

### PERSONAL STATEMENT, HYPOTHESIS, SPECIFIC AIMS, PROJECT PLAN SIGNIFICANCE, INNOVATION AND APPROACH

*(To be completed by applicant)*

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Formatting Requirements:

- All sections must be in Arial 11pt font with .5” margins
- Section headers (Specific Aims, etc) should be in bold. They are not counted in the character limits below
- Personal Statement should be a separate paragraph
- Proposals should not rely on artificial intelligence programs; original writing and ideas will be prioritized in funding decisions
- In order to receive the highest consideration, the proposal should be clearly written using correct grammar and spelling and should address all points listed below within the character limits for each section

Specific Aims: 2,000-character limit, including spaces

Project Plan Significance: 500-character limit, including spaces

Innovation: 500-character limit, including spaces

Hypothesis: 1,000-character limit, including spaces

Approach\*: 8,000-character limit, including spaces

Personal Statement: 5,000-character limit, including spaces

\* Must include Rationale and Methods, Potential Problems and Alternatives, Experimental Rigor (statistics, validation of reagents, sample size, etc).

Citations/references should be on a separate page, one page maximum.

Please insert the text of your proposal after this page.

## PART V – MENTOR SUPPORT

### A) TIMELINE, PUBLICATIONS AND FACULTY MENTOR SUPPORT LETTER

*(To be completed by faculty mentor)*

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have discussed the proposed project with the applicant and have confidence that the project can be completed within the 10-week STAR timeline.
- I will be in residence for the full 10-week STAR program.  
If not, how will mentoring responsibilities be delegated? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is there IP associated with this project that would limit the student's ability to present their data and results at the Oral Presentations, VSS and STAR poster sessions? Yes  No

#### Anticipated 10-week project milestones:

Week	Activities
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

**Publications resulting from prior STAR student projects** (Include authors, title, source, publication date. It is acceptable to cut and paste from PubMed, SCOPUS or SciVal). **Please insert your list of STAR related publications after this section** (*list should be no more than one page*).

#### Letter of Support:

Please insert your letter of support after your publications list (*letter should be no more than one page*).

## B) STAR FACULTY MENTOR REQUIREMENTS

While all faculty within the School of Veterinary Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Biological Sciences, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and College of Engineering are eligible to serve as mentors for STAR students, they are expected to fulfill certain criteria. Along the guidelines of the American Physiological Society, a successful mentor is one who engages in a dynamic process whereby mentor and mentee both learn to respect and trust each other's' commitment, expertise, and individuality. To sign up as a mentor, a faculty member must commit to the mentoring process and be willing to invest time, energy and resources into the relationship. The text of the relationship can be difficult to define, because mentoring is in many ways an elusive concept and an individual process. However, a mentor must possess the following characteristics:

- Be a faculty member in the School of Veterinary Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Biological Sciences, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, or College of Engineering
- Be actively engaged in funded research
- Ability to provide supplemental funding to support the student's 10-week research project expenses and NVSS travel support beyond the amount provided by the STAR program
- Be available throughout the summer for the student & attend student/mentor activities, including STAR poster session held in mid to late August
- Possess the expertise in the subject of the research proposal
- Agree to ensure the student fulfills his or her conditions and expectations of award
- Commit to active engagement with the student throughout the summer
- Plan to attend a one-hour mentoring workshop if you have not been a STAR mentor before. (Note, this is strongly recommended, not required)

**As a STAR Program Mentor, I have read and agree to the above terms outlining my responsibilities.** This is your electronic signature and is required on all e-mailed applications.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor Initials** \_\_\_\_\_

## PART VI – STAR STUDENT CONDITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Summer fellowships for the 2025 STAR Program are expected to be approximately \$8,000. The entire award will be allocated directly to the recipients as a living stipend only. External fellowships and disbursements are subject to policies governing the funding agency.

Submission of a STAR Program application indicates that a successful applicant agrees to all the following "Conditions of Award":

- Students are expected to commit full time effort to their project for the entire period of the award. Other activities cannot conflict or otherwise interfere with the ability of the student to participate full time in their research project. This includes any volunteer or paid positions.
- Students are expected to participate in weekly lab meetings and/or journal clubs and to conduct research full time for a 10-week period within these dates: **June 2 - August 8, 2025**. Any absence must be discussed in advance with your mentor and the STAR Program Director.
- Mandatory attendance at and participation in the 2025 Laboratory Practices Orientation, **date TBD**. Exemptions will be allowed only if the student has previously participated in the STAR program and has completed the Laboratory Practices Orientation.
- If a student receives STAR award funding and funding for another project to be conducted during the summer, the student can either accept the STAR award and turn down the other funded award, or vice versa...the student cannot accept STAR award funding if they already have received funding for the same project during the summer (or for a different project during the same summer).
- Students that accept funding and commit to the STAR program are expected to fully complete their obligations. At the discretion of the STAR Director, if a student is unable to complete all of the STAR requirements, all STAR funding received must be returned to the STAR program (student illness or unforeseen family emergencies will be considered on an individual basis).
- ALL students are required to complete a poster and present it at the end of summer STARS in Science poster presentation event usually held in late August, during the early part of the Fall semester.
- Students must be aware that individual funding sources that support the STAR Program come with their own criteria for presentation of research findings (e.g., poster, oral presentation, attendance at a national conference/meeting, etc.).
- Acknowledge STAR Program funding support in any publications resulting from the research project. All STAR related posters, talks and subsequent publishings must acknowledge the UC Davis STAR Program and fund source. An example of how to acknowledge funding is "Financial support was provided by the Students Training in Advanced Research (STAR) Program through a UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Endowment Fund (or Boehringer Ingelheim, NIH, etc). Students funded by the NIH T35 grant will need to include the NIH grant number as well.

**As a STAR Program Applicant, I have read and agree to the conditions and expectations outlined above.** This is your electronic signature and is required on all e-mailed applications.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Initials** \_\_\_\_\_