



## Friends of McNair Faculty Mentor – REU Supplemental Materials Information

Do you have an NSF grant? Are you interested in mentoring an undergraduate student in the summer? Consider having them join the [Friends of McNair Program](#), where they can join our programming, actively engage with research, present their work, and form professional relationships with mentors and future colleagues. The Friends of McNair Program is adjacent to the TRIO McNair program, providing the same academic supports and assistance with gaining admittance postbaccalaureate programs. Friends of McNair serves students who are interested in or actively pursuing education after their undergraduate degree in any discipline.

Utilize the information below in your application to submit an REU Supplement to apply for funding and join our Summer Research Institute, where you will join our TRIO McNair Faculty Mentors in working with student scholars from the University of Pittsburgh for eight (8) weeks in an intensive research experience for around thirty (30) hours per week. Your students will also have meetings with McNair staff to discuss their progress in research, learning how to present their work, collecting materials for graduate applications, and discussions with their fellow Summer Research Institute scholars.

### Budget Information

Student stipends for summer projects are expected to be comparable to those of REU Site participants, approximately \$700 per student per week. Other student costs include housing, meals, travel, and laboratory use fees and usually vary depending on location. Amounts for academic-year projects should be comparable on a pro rata basis.

Total costs for a summer — including all direct costs and indirect costs — are generally expected *not to exceed* \$1,550 per student per week (\$12,400 for 8 weeks). However, projects that involve international activities, field work in remote locations, or other exceptional circumstances may exceed this limit.

Results from any REU Supplement activities must be included in the annual project report for the associated award. The term of an REU Supplement may not exceed that of the associated award.

### **University of Pittsburgh Summer Research Costs for 8-Week Program**

Housing: \$5,301.00 per student (estimated for cost of double rooms)

Meal Plans: \$1,550.00 per student (estimated)

Total per student: \$7,000 (estimated)

\*The remaining funds (\$5,500) not exceeding \$12,500 may be used for associated costs for students joining research projects (IRB approval, training, technology, and equipment). Funds exceeding the estimated total per student (\$7,000) do not have to be requested, but it is encouraged to cover any costs that may arise from your student's participation in your project.

Dr. Carl Sell  
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### Nature of Student's Involvement in the Research Project

Friends of McNair Faculty Mentors work with student scholars from the University of Pittsburgh for eight (8) weeks in an intensive research experience for around thirty (30) hours per week. These students will also have meetings with McNair staff to discuss their progress in research, learning how to present their work, collecting materials for graduate applications, and discussions with their fellow Summer Research Institute scholars one (1) day each week.

[A description of the kind(s) of research/work that your student will be engaging in should be included. Be sure to add any IRB, training, or other project-specific information in regard to students working on the project. It is helpful to include any day-to-day processes that you can foresee your student scholar working with, as well as any important equipment or procedures you will have them work within. This can and should be a rough estimate of what your student scholar will be doing, and can evolve beyond what is listed here, provided it is within the parameters or normal student researcher employment.]

### Nature of the Mentoring that the Student(s) Will Receive

#### **Research Experience Supervision**

- Pre-research requirements guidance (Ex. IRB approval, training modules, clearances, etc.)
- Regular meetings (both in group, if applicable, and individually) to address both the work that they are doing as well as any questions about research, the field, and graduate study in the field
- Scheduling at least one visit/meeting with McNair staff, the student scholar, and the mentor
- Assistance with understanding how research factors into the field
- Providing positive but constructive feedback to the student scholar on their work for the project
- Minimizing anxiety and bolstering the student scholar's confidence in their work

#### **Poster Presentation Mentoring**

- Working with the student scholar to create a poster and learn how to present it (McNair programming will also assist, but direct insight from their faculty mentor is ideal)
- Having the student scholar present their work to other student researchers, faculty colleagues, and/or the campus community to help develop their oral and written communication skills
- Attending the Fall Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression Fair in support of the student scholar and their work
- Taking the student scholar with to professional conferences to show them how to present or assist them in presenting to the larger scholarly community (if applicable)

## **Graduate School and Personal Mentoring**

- Developing a working and professional relationship with the student scholar: Faculty Mentors may receive questions about graduate programs, careers with advanced degrees, or other general questions
- Providing networking opportunities by introducing the student scholar to colleagues on campus and at conferences
- Minimizing false student assumptions regarding ability and progress
- Supporting the student scholar by taking into account their status as a first-generation, limited-income, and/or underrepresented college student
- Providing personalized guidance and advice for the student scholar and their goals
- Exemplifying the value of time-intensive, hands-on mentoring experiences with the student scholar

## Process and Criteria for Selecting the Student(s)

The 8-week Summer Research Institute is open to students who have completed their Junior year at Pitt. Students who may be considered for inclusion in the Friends of McNair Program are students who:

- Are students in other opportunity programs at the University of Pittsburgh who are not otherwise eligible for the McNair Program based on the federal TRIO regulations (ex. TRIO SSS, BRIDGES, Provost Scholars, Kessler Scholars), *or*
- Are members of the University of Pittsburgh's at-promise populations, *or*
- Are students who demonstrate a need for McNair programming (ex. Students on Academic Probation, students taking part in an academic success plan, student athletes, students in McNair-adjacent affinity groups, students demonstrating a need for campus life or academic skills coaching), *or*
- Students who are McNair eligible, but are not able to be accepted based on program limitations, student academic barriers, desire to pursue a professional degree, or another reason.

Friends of McNair participants in the Summer Research Institute are students who have expressed explicit interest in completing a research experience and have been vetted by McNair staff. These students are connected with Faculty Mentors who are in their fields and who are uniquely qualified to serve as their research and professional mentors for the duration of the Summer Research Institute. These are often high-achieving students and/or students who are first-generation college students who do not have access to research opportunities without the assistance of the Friends of McNair Program.

## Questions

Questions about the Friends of McNair program, general REU supplements, student scholars, and mentoring? Contact the Assistant Director of the TRIO McNair Scholars Program, Dr. Carl Sell at [cbs72@pitt.edu](mailto:cbs72@pitt.edu).

## Ready to submit your REU Supplement?

REU Supplements may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

Find out more about REU Grant Supplements and submit at:

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23601/nsf23601.htm>