

RSMAS Small Undergraduate Research Grant Experience (SURGE) 2021

Applications for RSMAS Small Undergraduate Research Grant Experience (SURGE) awards are now being accepted for funding consideration. The SURGE program offers modest grants (up to \$1500) to RSMAS undergraduates in good standing for research in the fields of study covered by the RSMAS undergraduate academic program. Funds can be requested for (1) materials and supplies that support substantive research activities, (2) the costs of fieldwork or visits to archives related to independent research, and (3) attendance at scientific meetings or conferences where original work is being presented.

The highest priority for SURGE funding is covering participation of undergraduates in fieldwork and conference participation. Here participation means actually doing research in the field and giving poster or oral presentations at national or international forums. Funds may also be requested for research supplies. A documented need beyond the capability of a mentor's laboratory is required. This might include processing of samples at outside facilities and/or specific items required for the student's project. Such needs should be carefully outlined in the letter of support from the mentor that accompanies the proposal. In all cases SURGE funds are given to the student and not added to existing faculty accounts in order to provide experience in handling research funding for the student.

Funding decisions will be made by a subcommittee of the RSMAS faculty with final approval by the Program Directors and Associate Dean. This committee adheres to a broad definition of research "research or scholarly activities that lead to the production of new knowledge."

You are eligible to apply for a SURGE Award if you are:

1. A RSMAS undergraduate student, including freshmen, in a degree-granting program;
2. Enrolled during the semester of your grant award;
3. In good academic standing (not on probation, leave of absence, or suspension).

How do I apply?

A SURGE application consists of the following:

1. A short research proposal (max two pages) with a clear statement of purpose and a summary of the research or activities to be conducted; the statement should identify your research mentor or supervisor;
2. An itemized budget, including costs above what SURGE offers (up to \$1,500) and disclosure of any other available support;
3. A standard résumé (max two pages);
4. A letter of support from your advisor or faculty research mentor. This letter, addressed to the RSMAS Undergraduate Program Awards Committee, must be sent separately by your advisor/mentor.

Please indicate which award you are applying for (SURGE, Farmer, and /or Mastriani). You may apply to all three with one application. Your choice of award category should be indicated in the email that accompanies your application.

Please submit your application as a single pdf document by using the naming convention (comprised of your last name): Lastname_Awards2021.pdf. Your faculty advisor/mentor should title their recommendation letter as: "Student's Lastname_Recommendation_Awards2021.pdf." All applications and recommendation letters should be submitted to the Associate Dean by email to lpeterson@rsmas.miami.edu.

What are the Grant Requirements?

By accepting your SURGE grant, you agree to:

1. Present your work at the annual RSMAS Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium in April 2022 (date TBD);
2. Provide a written assessment of your activities and an accounting of how funds were spent;
3. Follow animal or human subject protocols, if applicable.

Failure to satisfy these requirements will result in ineligibility for future awards.

Fall 2021 Deadline for Applications: 5:00 PM, Wednesday, October 6, 2021.