

A. D. WILLIAMS STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Purpose

The purpose of this fellowship program is to expose promising students in the School Dentistry to an active and productive research atmosphere, and to serve as an avenue for exploring options for a future academic and research career. Although the project and the scientific contribution a student makes are important, the primary intent of the fellowship is to inculcate and foster an appreciation for and a desire to participate in original and creative research. By so doing, our students and graduates will come to understand the essential part that research plays in the health sciences, and they will be able to appreciate more fully their own responsibilities and opportunities in investigative activity.

In order to facilitate the selection of meritorious fellows, the following guidelines have been formulated to (1) aid students and faculty sponsors in applying for A. D. Williams Student Research Fellowships, and (2) aid the selection committees in their deliberations.

A. Eligibility and Requirements for Students and Sponsors

1. Students in the School of Dentistry may apply to the Dean for Research for a research fellowship under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.
2. Need for financial support is not a consideration evaluating applications; however, students who have other means of stipend support are not eligible. Furthermore, it is emphasized that a fellowship may not be considered by either party as a mere source of technical support in the sponsor's laboratory.
3. These fellowships are for a period of at least two months. In view of the demands of the DDS curriculum, an equivalent of the eight week period of the fellowship may be planned by the student in collaboration with the sponsor, and specified in the application.
4. A faculty member may sponsor more than one student application per year.
5. In view of the limited number available, previous holders of an A. D. Williams Summer Fellowship are eligible for a second award only if strong justification can be offered.

B. Application Procedure

1. Application forms for these fellowships are available online or in the office of the Assistant Dean for Research.
2. The completed application must be delivered to the Assistant for Research by February 1. Fifteen copies are required. Exceeding the page limitations (see application form) will result in automatic disqualification of the application.
3. Applications will be judged on the quality and suitability of the project, the student's academic achievement at VCU, and suitability of the sponsor. Evaluation will be by the school's Research Committee appointed by the Dean for the School of Dentistry and notification of awards will be made during the month of March.
4. The student will complete items 1-8 in the application. The research proposal, developed in concert with the sponsor, should be well thought out, clear and concise. The proposal should reflect the applicant's initiative and reasoning ability. The sponsor must complete all parts of items 9-12. The Department Chairman will endorse the completed application.

C. Obligations of the A. D. Williams Fellow

1. The Fellow will devote full time to the research project throughout the period of the fellowship or the equivalent of eight weeks of full-time effort.
2. A progress report of not less 200 words must be submitted to the Sponsor and the Assistant Dean for Research at the termination of the fellowship. The report will summarize the work accomplished on the project and include an evaluation of this program. The Fellow should comment on his contribution to the project and what (s)he gained from the experience.
3. Any publication resulting from this research should acknowledge support by the A. D. Williams Funds and from award number UL1RR031990 from the National Center for Research Resources and NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, National Institutes of Health
4. Students in the School of Dentistry who accept funding for A.D. Williams fellowships must present the results of their work during the School's Clinic/Research Day following the completion of their projects. A statement to this effect will be included in the award notice.