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# SCIENCE INSTITUTE

College of Arts & Sciences  
Fairfield University

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DATE: January 31, 2025

TO: Full-Time Faculty Members in Sciences & Mathematics

FROM: Dr. Shelley Phelan, Director of the Science Institute

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals for the Science Institute Summer Student Research Grant

The Science Institute at Fairfield University is an endowed program in the College of Arts & Sciences that supports activities and programs in the areas of science and mathematics including innovative teaching, curriculum development, lectures, and seed grants for research, along with projects that promote the cultivation of an appreciation for scientific teaching and inquiry in the University and the community at large.

The current RFP supports faculty-mentored student research for summer 2025. This is being supported by a fund established in memory of Dr. Klimas, a former biology faculty member. These funds will be used to provide grants of up to **\$5000** to support up to eight weeks of faculty-supervised student research in the natural sciences and/or mathematics this summer. Priority will be given to seed projects that have the potential for development into externally funded research grants. Faculty members in the departments of biology, chemistry/biochemistry, physics, psychological and brain sciences, and mathematics are encouraged to apply. (Applications from non-tenure track faculty must include a letter of support from the Chair, confirming that necessary departmental resources (including space) will be provided). Student housing can be requested from the Dean's summer research student housing call.

The following stipulations apply:

- Each grant provides up to \$4000 for student stipends. (\$4000 per student assumes 8 weeks of full time faculty-supervised summer research, or this can be prorated to \$500 per week for fewer than 8 weeks.) The stipend can also be split between multiple students for a shorter time period.
- Up to an additional \$1000 may be requested for supplies, travel, and/or a faculty stipend (with justification).
- Current undergraduates are expected to present their research results at the Sigma Xi poster session within Fairfield University's Innovative Research Symposium in spring 2026.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is Monday, March 3, 2025, and awards will be announced on or about March 17.

Please **submit the application electronically as a pdf** to [jfrancis@fairfield.edu](mailto:jfrancis@fairfield.edu), and be sure to indicate which of the Science Institute grants you're applying for in the subject line of your email.

SP:jf