Putting Ideas into Action

Undergraduate Research Fellowships in the Arts & Sciences

"Our undergraduates conduct research across disciplines. The experience is transformational. Students hone critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills, preparing them to be the experts in their chosen fields."

Paul J. Wahlbeck
Dean, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences

Critical to a 21st-Century Liberal Arts Education

At the Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (CCAS), our undergraduate students experience an applied and engaged liberal arts education. Brimming with curiosity and creativity—and a desire for practical, hands-on applications of their learning—our students often seek experience outside of the classroom.

Research gives students the opportunity to explore complex questions while cultivating invaluable skills. The Smithsonian Institution, the National Institutes of Health, and the Departments of State and the Treasury are just a few of GW's neighbors that provide research possibilities with real-world applications and policy advancements.

With deep experience in teaching and research, our faculty is well equipped to mentor diverse research projects across all disciplines within CCAS—from developing multi-wavelength analyses of black holes to studying women's social influence on early American politics.

Fellowships Increase Access

When students dive into research, costs can add up quickly: materials, summer housing, travel, conferences, and more. The seemingly endless possibilities students envisioned are suddenly limited by financial constraints. Fellowship support ensures that pursuing research is available to all interested undergraduate students.

As a member of the Association of American Universities—an exclusive group of the country's top research institutions—GW is known for its strong research, and CCAS prioritizes making undergraduate research a core pillar of the applied liberal arts experience.

Now more than ever, philanthropic support is critical to making research experiences available to more undergraduate students.

Columbian College of Arts & Sciences
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"It would be hard for me to have the Lab of Autism and Developmental Neuroscience without undergraduates. They are the engine that makes it go. The students are driven, energetic, enthusiastic—and it's infectious."

Gregory L. Wallace, PhD
Professor, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

How to Support Undergraduate Research

Endow Luther Rice Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Administered by the Dean's Office, these prestigious fellowships are awarded through a rigorous application process and celebrated at the annual research showcase each spring. The Luther Rice moniker gives special meaning to the awards. Rice was instrumental to the 1821 founding of the Columbian College, which later became the George Washington University.

With a minimum gift of $150,000, donors can create a named endowment to fund one undergraduate research fellowship in perpetuity. CCAS aspires to create at least 25 new research fellowships, which will double the number of fully funded opportunities available to our students.

Endow Discipline-Specific Fellowships

You may also wish to consider naming your own endowed fellowship fund to encourage discipline-specific research in your preferred academic department, field of study, or area of innovation (identified in consultation with the dean).

Endowment pledges may be completed over five years.

From labs to libraries, data sets to fieldwork samples, every step of the research process enhances students' education. Your support makes these only-at-GW experiences possible while investing in knowledge to advance society.

For more information, contact your GW development officer or Elizabeth Burns, Assistant VP of CCAS Advancement, at elizabeth.burns@gwu.edu or 202-944-1766.

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