
PATRICIA BUSTER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
Department of Geology, Colorado College

The Patricia Buster Research Scholarship Fund was established in 2000 to support Colorado College students in conducting research in geology. Patricia J. Buster's bequest to the Geology Department provides students with the opportunity to undertake original scientific work, and to design and carry out research work tailored to their own interests. It does so by providing a stipend and costs to cover research expenses, including both field and laboratory costs (if approved by Department). A high level of initiative and a striving for excellence is expected of scholarship recipients, as is a willingness to present the results of their work to faculty and other students in the department.

Applications for Buster Scholarships will be accepted at any time. Depending on faculty availability, it may take up to a month for the Department to review the application and reach a decision. In some instances, students will be asked to make a revision to address any omissions or to improve the proposal text. Stipends and research expenses are funded by the Patricia J Buster Scholarship Fund, up to an annual limit. To ensure funding of worthy proposals, it is advantageous to submit materials as in the Spring Semester for summer research.

Scholarship Eligibility

Buster Scholarships are open to all students at Colorado College who wish to conduct original research in the earth sciences, mentored by a Geology professor. Investigations in associated fields will be considered if clear connections or applications to the earth sciences can be demonstrated. Applicants are expected to have a strong background in geology course work along with junior or senior standing, although sophomores with exceptionally strong backgrounds or experience may also be considered. Students may apply for more than one Buster Scholarship while at Colorado College, but funding priority will be given to those who have not previously received a scholarship. Students may not apply for a Buster Scholarship if they are already receiving a stipend from another source to undertake their research. (All students doing research are, eligible to apply for other Departmental funds to offset research expenses; see Mandy for details).

Guidelines:

In order to apply for funds, students must prepare a project proposal in consultation with their sponsor, and submit it to the department for approval. The proposal should present (1) the geological background and context, (2) a clear statement of the significance of the project, (3) a brief description of the research methods that will be applied, and (4) a schedule for completion of the proposed work. Projects that are developed in conjunction with off-campus scientists should include letters of support from those persons.

Funds are available to support students undertaking field and lab projects during summer or winter breaks (the latter may include half-block). Funds can be used to support projects of all types, including off-campus research and those developed in conjunction with scientists at other institutions. In all cases, however, students must have a sponsor who is a member of the Colorado College Geology Department. Students who are enrolled for independent study or other form of for academic credit (GY207, GY307, GY405) cannot receive a Buster stipend at the same time. Therefore, Buster Scholarships generally are not awarded for research work done during the semesters, for this reason; since recipients of the scholarship cannot also be enrolled in courses.

Colorado College's policy on health/medical coverage is that summer research scholars working in USA or abroad, while not enrolled for academic credit, must rely upon their own primary insurance to cover health care and/or emergency medical treatment, whether this be family health insurance or the CSHIP program that CC makes available to students who do not have family insurance.

Scholarships consist of:

Stipend – Stipends for Buster Scholars will be \$2400 for projects involving four or more weeks of full-time summer work. Scholars working on shorter projects, of two-to-four weeks duration, will receive stipends of \$600/week.

Research Expense Support – Each Buster Scholarship will include a grant up to \$1200 to cover documented analytical costs, field research expenses, travel, and so forth. Allowable expenses include domestic/international travel (directly related to research), analytical and field costs, and sample preparation. Major expenditures should be reviewed by the faculty sponsor and included in the proposal so the sums can be anticipated and authorized by the Department.

Requirements

Students receiving Buster Scholarships must present a talk or a poster at the Geology Department's annual Geology Day in the spring. Presentations at regional and national meetings and to community groups are also encouraged. Other requirements are determined in consultation with the recipient's faculty sponsor, and often include (but are not limited to) enrollment in a GY 405 research block and preparation of a thesis, final written report, or conference poster that summarizes the major scientific findings of the funded research.

Disbursement of awards

Stipends will be paid to students at the beginning of/during the research period.

Research funds: Faculty sponsors in the Geology Department will administer the grant funds related to supplies, equipment, analyses/instrumentation use, and field or travel expenses. Documentation of expenses must be submitted in the form of invoices, receipts, payment statements or other substantiation of eligible expenses to be reimbursed.

Application Process

To apply for Buster Scholarship funds, prepare a proposal in consultation with the research advisor. Submit an electronic copy of your project proposal, the name of your department sponsor, supporting letters if necessary, the following Authorization for Field Trips, if relevant, and an unofficial academic transcript to Mandy Sulfrian.

Release of Liability: If the project will entail independent field-based work, please complete the following, with original signature.

This section to be adjusted by each faculty mentor, in order that it reflects the research activities that involve travel and work conducted away from the Colorado College campus.

Buster Research Release for Field Work / Research Travel

Colorado College Department of Geology

Academic Year 2023-24

I, _____, willingly participate in field work and off-campus activities associated with my Buster Research Grant.

I recognize that the field work and/or research travel may involve moderate physical activity (e.g., hiking and camping) and other activities (e.g., travel in vehicles or by air, accommodation and presence in urban settings) that pose a risk of personal injury.

If I have any serious health problems, I understand that it is my responsibility to notify my advisor prior to the field work. I understand that Colorado College's policy on health/medical coverage is:

Summer research scholars working in USA or abroad, while not enrolled for academic credit, must rely upon their own primary insurance to cover health care and/or emergency medical treatment, whether this be family health insurance or the CCSHIP program that CC makes available to students who do not have family insurance.

I further agree that The Colorado College, the Geology Department faculty and staff, and others associated with Buster Research, shall be held harmless from, and indemnified against any and all liability, costs, claims, loss, or damage which might be incurred as a result of any injury.

Student

Date