Undergraduate Research Paper Prizes in History and Related Fields

Complied by Dr. Judith A. Miller, Emory University, Department of History, May 2018.

Please consult the website or contact the association that sponsors an award for further information and any updates regarding the prizes. This list is not exhaustive, but it might help you get ideas about where to send your work. In some cases, the awards are linked to participation in an undergraduate paper or poster session the society’s annual conference, so do consider the possibility of presenting your work at such a meeting.

National and International Awards:


The International Studies Association: ISS Best Student Paper Award https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/ISS-Best-Student-Paper

ISA-West Undergraduate Paper Award https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Awards/West-Undergrad-Paper

The Humanities Education and Research Association: “In 2018, HERA introduces the HERA Undergraduate Research Prize, a prize of $1,000 awarded to the best undergraduate conference paper (or divided among a panel of papers), sponsored by an attending professor (with a $500 prize awarded to the professor).” http://www.h-e-r-a.org/Conferences/2018%20Chicago/hera_chicago_2018_conference.htm


The World History Association and Phi Alpha Theta https://www.thewha.org/awards/student-paper-prize/

The Lynn W. Turner Prize of $500 for the best paper by an undergraduate student member of Phi Alpha Theta

The Nels Andrew Cleven Founder’s Paper Prize Awards: two undergraduate and two graduate awards of $400 each for superior papers submitted by student members of Phi Alpha Theta
Phi Alpha Theta and the Western Front Association award a prize of $1,000 for an essay about the American experience in World War I (am trying to find this one)

Classics: Phyllis B. Katz Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research: (“A submitted paper must be the original work of an undergraduate student... on some aspect of ancient Mediterranean languages, literature, history or culture and should be of suitable length to be delivered orally in 15 minutes.”)
https://caneweb.org/forms/Katz.pdf

Council for European Studies, Undergraduate Project Prize,
https://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/grants-and-awards/undergraduate-paper-prize

National Council for Black Studies: http://www.ncbsonline.org/college_student_essay_contest


The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, Joan Nestle Prize
http://clgbthistory.org/prizes/joan-nestle-prize

ASIANNetwork, The 2019 McJimsey Award Competition: https://www.asianetwork.org/programs/the-marianna-mcjimsey-award/

The Peace and Justice Studies Association, Best Undergraduate Paper of the Year Award
https://www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/awards

The Leo Baeck Institute-NY Essay Prize in German-Jewish History and Culture: Undergraduate Prize Announcement: The Leo Baeck Institute-NY Essay Prize in German-Jewish History and Culture. “essay prize to acknowledge the best essay written by an undergraduate enrolled in ANY undergraduate program at a North American college or university on any topic related to the history and cultures of German-speaking Jews.” https://www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/files/2017/04/Leo-Baeck-Prize-2017.pdf

Association for the Study of Food and Society, ASFS Student Paper Awards http://www.food-culture.org/asfs-student-paper-award/

The Sacknoff Prize for Space History
https://www.spacehistory101.com/Sacknoff_Prize_for_Space_History_s/1824.htm

The Children's Literature Association, Carol Gay Award annually for outstanding papers on children's literature by undergraduate students: http://www.childlitassn.org/carol-gay-award

The Society for the History of Discoveries Student Prize https://www.sochistdisc.org/essay-contest.htm


The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies http://aabs-balticstudies.org/announcements/nominations-for-undergrad-paper-award

Society for American Archaeology, Student Paper Award - http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Awards/StudentPaperAward/tabid/185/Default.aspx
American Association of Geographers (AAG), AAG Specialty and Affinity Group Awards, some student paper opportunities: [http://www.aag.org/aag_groups](http://www.aag.org/aag_groups) and [http://community.aag.org/undergraduatestudentaffinitygroup/home](http://community.aag.org/undergraduatestudentaffinitygroup/home)

Southeastern Theatre Conference: “The SETC History/Theory/Criticism/Literature Committee invites submissions in all topics related to the broad categories of history, theory, criticism, and literature from graduate and undergraduate students.” [https://www.setc.org/scholarships-awards/awards/young-scholars-awards/](https://www.setc.org/scholarships-awards/awards/young-scholars-awards/)

The Association for Africanist Anthropology (AfAA), Nancy “Penny” Schwartz Undergraduate Student Essay Award [http://afaa.americananthro.org/association-awards/](http://afaa.americananthro.org/association-awards/)


The Society for the Psychology of Women (SPW) of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP), Annual Prize for Psychological Research on Women and Gender by Graduate or Undergraduate Students: [https://www.awpsych.org/women_gender_research.php](https://www.awpsych.org/women_gender_research.php)

The American Folklore Society:

- Warren E. Roberts Prize for Best Student Paper in Folk Art: [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkArts](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkArts)
- LGBTQA Section [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=LGBTQA](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=LGBTQA)
- Transnational Asia/Pacific Section [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=KhanAward](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=KhanAward)
- The Sue Samuelson Award for Foodways Scholarship [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=Foodways](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=Foodways)
- Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Section [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=JewishFLE](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=JewishFLE)
- History and Folklore Section, **Richard Reuss Prize**: For a student paper on a subject including historical approaches to the study of folklore and the history of folklore studies. Biannual deadline: **June 1** (odd-numbered years) [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=HistoryFolklore](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=HistoryFolklore)
- Women’s Section, EKM Student Prize: [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=Women](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=Women)

The Agriculture, Food, & Human Values Society (AFHVS), Student Research Paper Awards: [https://afhvs.wildapricot.org/Awards](https://afhvs.wildapricot.org/Awards)

Society for Ethnomusicology (a few examples of the many prizes for which undergraduate work is eligible – look over the website for more prizes) [http://www.ethnomusicology.org/?page=Prizes_Home](http://www.ethnomusicology.org/?page=Prizes_Home)

- Charlotte Frisbie Student Paper Prize (Indigenous Music): [https://ethnomusicology.site-ym.com/page/FrisbiePrize](https://ethnomusicology.site-ym.com/page/FrisbiePrize)
- Historical Ethnomusicology Section [http://www.ethnomusicology.org/?Sections_HE_Prize](http://www.ethnomusicology.org/?Sections_HE_Prize)
The Religion, Music, and Sound Section [https://ethnomusicology.site-ym.com/page/ReligionPrize](https://ethnomusicology.site-ym.com/page/ReligionPrize)


Pacific Northwest Regional of the American Academy of Religion: Gender, Religion, Sexuality, and Power Unit: We are also open to papers from advanced undergraduate or Master’s students, papers which would also be considered for the annual student paper prize (please identify your status with your proposal submission). [https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/meetings/2018-PNW-CFP-FinalDraft.pdf](https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/meetings/2018-PNW-CFP-FinalDraft.pdf)

The Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana. “The Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana annually invites submissions for its prize competition for the best undergraduate and graduate student papers on historic or contemporary communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. Submissions may come from any academic discipline and should be focused on a topic clearly related to communal groups or utopias.” [http://www.usi.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center/prizes-travel-grant/](http://www.usi.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center/prizes-travel-grant/)


State and Regional Prizes:

*These are just examples... there are certainly more out there. Search the web for prizes related to the regions, cities, states, and counties that your work treats.*


Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion: SECSOR Undergraduate Student Award. Papers submitted to the undergraduate section of SECSOR by the December 15 deadline are eligible for the undergraduate award. [https://secor.org/for-student-members](https://secor.org/for-student-members)

Appalachian Studies Association, Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award: [http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/](http://appalachianstudies.org/awards/)

New York State Political Science Association, The Arthur L. Galub Award for the Best Paper by an Undergraduate Student [https://www.nyspsa.org/arthur_l_galub_best_undergraduate_paper_award](https://www.nyspsa.org/arthur_l_galub_best_undergraduate_paper_award)

Florida Conference of Historians: “The FCH also gives the J. Calvitt Clarke III Award for the best undergraduate paper presented at the annual meeting” [http://www.floridaconferenceofhistorians.org/awards.html](http://www.floridaconferenceofhistorians.org/awards.html)


http://www.mpsanet.org/Professional-Development/Awards-Call-for-Nominations/Award-Recipients-2017 and http://www.mpsanet.org/awards

**Western Social Science Association**: Best Undergraduate paper
http://www.wssaweb.com/competitions-and-awards.html

**The Eastern Communication Association**, Top Undergraduate Papers, and conference info for students:
https://www.ecasite.org/aws/ECA/pt/sp/convention_students

**Research Papers in Wisconsin Labor and Working-Class History**, ZEIDLER ACADEMIC AWARDS,
http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/contests/zeidler-scholarships/

**Pennsylvania Historical Association**, William A. Pencak Award for Best Undergraduate Research,
https://pa-history.org/2018/05/pencak-prize-call-for-nominations/

**Louisiana Historical Association**, The Kimberly S. Hanger Prize https://www.lahistory.org/about-louisiana-historical-association/awards/

**The Northern Great Plains History**, best paper by an undergraduate
https://www.ngphconference.org/student-prizes/

Paul A. Stellhorn Undergraduate Paper in New Jersey History Award

**The Southwestern Political Science Association (SWPSA)**, Best Undergraduate Paper Award ($250) for the best paper written by an undergraduate during the calendar year, invited for presentation at the next year’s SWPSA meeting. https://sssaonline.org/affiliates/southwestern-political-science-association/awards/