

VASSAR COLLEGE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE COLLINS STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

The Collins Student Research Fund is administered by Vassar's Environmental Research Institute (ERI) for the purpose of supporting student research in the area of Environmental Science. Funding is on a competitive basis and requires faculty mentorship through the student enrolling in either senior thesis research or faculty supervised independent work within a department or program. Project budgets up to \$1,000 will be considered. At the conclusion of the project, students provide a paper discussing the project and their results to the ERI. Below are descriptions of the funding priorities and application procedures for this fund.

What research will be funded:

Research on Earth's environmental systems and human interactions with those systems. This could include ecological, evolutionary, geological, chemical, anthropological or behavioral projects to the extent they are relevant to environmental systems. No preference will be given for applied versus basic research.

What expenses will be funded:

- 1) Supplies and expendable materials (chemicals, lumber, paper goods, etc.)
- 2) Travel to research sites (gasoline, airfare, lodging, etc.)
- 3) Equipment items
- 4) Costs of training workshops to learn new skills
- 5) External lab analyses for projects for which Vassar does not own the necessary equipment

Application Procedure:

Students should submit a letter of application that describes the research project they wish to pursue. The application should specify:

- 1) The background and particular intent of the research project, including the questions addressed, the observations to be made or experiments to be performed,
- 2) The faculty member supervising the research or thesis project,
- 3) A detailed budget.

Applicants should submit the application to Catherine Meyer, Administrative Assistant of the Environmental Studies Program, cameyer@vassar.edu. Applications will be reviewed by the Environmental Research Institute steering committee (members include: Marshall Pregnall (Coordinator, ERI), Mary Ann Cunningham (Earth Science and Geography), Alison Spodek (Chemistry), Ben Ho (Economics), and Pinar Batur (Director, Environmental Studies)). Completed applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Decisions will normally be announced two weeks from the date of submission. We urge students to plan for the next semester and apply for funding in anticipation of doing an independent research project. That way, students will know in advance of registering for courses whether they will have the funds needed to carry out their projects.