

VASSAR COLLEGE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE COLLINS STUDENT RESEARCH FUND
Mentored Research Funding

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. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis because proposals are generally conducted during the academic year. At the conclusion of the project, students should provide a paper discussing the project and their results to the ERI.

Due date for mentored research: Monday after October Break and after Spring Break

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

- 1) The project question
- 2) Purpose and justification
- 3) Methods
- 4) Expected findings
- 5) Relevant experience (resumé), and
- 6) A detailed budget.

Applications should detail the points above and should be submitted to Catherine Meyer (cameyer@vassar.edu). Applications will be reviewed by the current Environmental research Institute committee. Completed applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Decisions will normally be

announced two weeks from the date of submission. We suggest that students look ahead toward the next semester and apply for funding in anticipation of doing an independent research project.