



Deans Research Scholars Program

USC offers students the opportunity to take a full year to pursue a research experience with either a Keck School of Medicine faculty mentor or an approved faculty mentor on the University Park campus, or at another institution. This program is open to any student in good to excellent academic standing who has completed his/her second year of medical school.

Students are required to submit a letter of support from a faculty member who has agreed to serve as their preceptor for the year. This letter should serve to verify that he/she will serve as the preceptor and indicate if financial support will be provided (the amount of the support should be stated in the letter). Please note that the amount of the support should be comparable to a graduate research stipend at the post graduate level (contact the Office of Student Affairs for the exact amount). Students may select a faculty mentor from another institution if the research proposal is approved by the Director of Medical Student Research.

Applications for this program are available on-line and in the Office of Student Affairs, KAM 100B. Once the application and proposal have been approved by the Medical Student Research Committee, students must receive approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs for a leave of absence of their medical school curriculum.

Deans Research Scholarship

Students who cannot secure funding from a faculty mentor may indicate on their application that they would like to be considered for a Deans Research Scholarship. The scholarship recipients are selected through a competitive process that includes review of the application by the dean and a committee of faculty. The application deadline to be considered for the Deans Research Scholarship is April 15, 2010. Please return your application to Mandy Garcia in the Office of Student Affairs (KAM 100B).

The amount of the scholarship is comparable to a graduate research stipend at the post graduate level. If awarded a research scholarship the student will be required to submit a thesis at the end of the research year. Please see the attached thesis instructions.

For questions please contact:
Robert Decker, Ph.D.
Director of Medical Student Research
(323) 442-7926
rsdecker@usc.edu



Deans Research Scholars Program

Return original application to KAM 100B.

Applicant Information:

Name		USC ID Number
Mailing Address		
City/State/Zip		E-mail Address
()	()	
Home Phone	Cell Phone/Pager	Year in School
Dates of Proposed Period of Support		

Preceptor Information:

Faculty Preceptor	
Position Title	
Preceptor Signature	
School	Department
Mailing Address	
City/State/Zip	
()	
Telephone	E-mail Address

Please indicate if you would like to be considered for a Deans Research Scholarship.

Yes No

Proposal Guidelines

Application for the fifth year program should propose a specific research proposal for a project that can reasonably be completed in one year. This should be developed in close collaboration with the faculty preceptor, but must be written by the student. Use the following proposal format (3 page limit).

1. Narrative Description of Proposed Research Activities:

Please use the following proposal guidelines in preparing your research proposal.

I. Specific Aims:

- a. Overview and importance of research area
- b. State hypothesis to be tested
- c. List specific aims (experiments) that will test hypothesis (three at most)

II. Background:

Briefly review the pertinent literature concerning the project. This should show that the hypothesis is important and reasonable and that the data you will collect will critically test the hypothesis (one page limit)

III. Preliminary Data:

If you have any experience in this research area or already have some data, briefly present it.

IV. Methods:

List the experimental procedures to be used. If animals are involved*, justify selection and use of numbers of animals requested. If humans are involved*, show that the risk/benefit ratio is appropriate.

V. Analysis:

Discuss briefly what form the data will take and how the data will be analyzed.

2. Curriculum Vitae

Please submit a CV on a separate sheet(s) a list with inclusive dates of all scholarships, fellowships, awards and honors and teaching appointments. Please submit a detailed description of previous research projects, including copies of publications and papers submitted, along with short-and long-term career plans.

3. Letter of Support

You are requested to submit a letter of support from an USC faculty who will serve as your preceptor for the year. This letter should serve to verify that he/she will serve as your preceptor and will provide financial support (the amount of the support should be stated) for you during your fifth year. Students may select a faculty mentor from another institution if the program is approved by the appropriate USC department chair.

Note: It is your responsibility to contact your preceptor and request that his/her letter be sent directly to: Office of Student Affairs, USC Keck School of Medicine, 1975 Zonal Avenue, KAM 100B, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9020; Attention Mandy Garcia. Please call (323) 442-2553 if you have any questions.

***Approval by USC Research Committee for any studies involving Animals and Human Subjects must be obtained if project is approved by the Medical Student Research Committee.**

Thesis Instructions

Required only if awarded a Deans Research Scholarship

CHAPTER 1: Overview of the Study

- A. Background of the Problem
- B. Statement of the Problem
- C. Purpose of the Study
- D. Significance of the Study
- E. Research Questions
- F. Hypotheses
- G. Methodology
- H. Organization of the Study

CHAPTER 2: Review of the Literature

- A. Literature Review
- B. Conclusions
- C. Implications

CHAPTER 3: Research Methodology

- A. Research Questions
- B. Research Design
 - 1. Research Population
 - 2. Instrumentation
 - 3. Data Collection
 - 4. Validity and Reliability
 - 5. Data Analysis

CHAPTER 4: Results

- A. Validity and Reliability

CHAPTER 5: Discussion

- A. Conclusions
- B. Relationship of Findings to Previous Literature
- C. Limitations
- D. Recommendations and Implications for Future Studies

REFERENCES